

## Wanted Ryan 'hiding out' in Republic

### Tories allege priest was involved in Chelsea bomb

● The Roman Catholic priest wanted in connection with alleged IRA terrorist offences slipped the net yesterday  
● Irish police made no attempt to detain Mr Patrick Ryan when he booked himself out of a Dublin clinic  
● His sudden disappearance in the midst of an extradition dispute provoked strong denunciations from MPs  
● Mr Ryan, who is suspected of involvement in 185 explosions, is said to be staying at a religious house

By Jamie Dettmer, Frances Gibb, Nicholas Wood and Richard Ford

Father Patrick Ryan, the Roman Catholic priest wanted in connection with alleged terrorist offences, slipped the net yesterday as Britain continued to seek his extradition from the Irish Republic.

He went to ground after signing himself out of an exclusive Dublin clinic where he was recovering from the 22-day hunger strike he staged in Belgium before being allowed to return to Ireland.

His disappearance provoked "dismay and concern" from Government sources, but relief in the Irish Government, which was faced with the task of deciding whether to

implement Britain's extradition request. Mr Barry Porter, Conservative MP for Wirral South, denounced the Irish authorities for "letting Ryan escape" after learning that Irish detectives patrolling the clinic had not attempted to arrest him.

Ryan left at about midday with the help of his family and lawyer, who had earlier insisted that he would have to spend at least a fortnight in the clinic. His brother, Mr Joe Ryan, said last night that the medical team at the hospital had advised that "it was safe

to move him and we arranged for that today". He said his brother was in "a religious house somewhere in Ireland".

Mr Elio Malocco, Ryan's lawyer, said he had also been involved in the decision and would not be giving the address of the hide-out to the Irish authorities. However, if he wished to question Ryan, he would be available.

The anger at Westminster is certain to increase, for *The Times* learnt last night that one of the charges against Ryan is an alleged involvement in the 1981 bombing of the Chelsea barracks, in which two civilians were killed and 40 people injured.

Senior Conservative sources said Ryan had been investigated by army and police intelligence since the middle 1970s. The disclosure came in the wake of a political storm over the Belgian government's decision to reject a request from Scotland Yard for Ryan's extradition to Britain, flying him to Dublin instead.

The Foreign Office has told Belgium that the Government "very much regrets" the decision not to extradite Ryan. Senior government officials described the action as "appalling".

It is understood that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, has been advised by anti-terrorist squad officers that Mr Ryan had, for 10 years, allegedly acted as a quartermaster for the IRA. Sir Patrick is said to believe that Britain has a cast-iron case for his transfer to London to face trial on alleged terrorist offences. He aired those views

in a telephone call to Mr John Murray, his Irish counterpart, yesterday. He has already sent Mr Murray a memorandum to back up warrants delivered to the Gardaí at the weekend.

The warrants allege that Ryan, aged 58, conspired to commit murder between 1975 and 1988, conspired to cause explosions, including 185 in Northern Ireland using a timing device he had procured, and had been in possession of explosives. One charge alleges the possession of 32 integrated circuits used for detonating explosives.

With the warrants were additional documents needed under the amended Extradition Act, 1987, whereby the Irish Attorney-General has to satisfy himself that there is an intention to prosecute and that there is sufficient evidence.

The dossier, including new warrants, was with the Irish authorities by 6pm on Friday evening, two hours after lawyers in London were told of the Belgian decision not to extradite.

Lawyers are believed to have been confident that there was no defect in the case, that the papers were complete and that the Belgian court that gave the opinion to the Belgian minister (on whether Ryan should be extradited) found the extradition requirements in order.

As the documentation was sent to Ireland by facsimile transmission, the Metropolitan Police requested the Garda to arrest Mr Ryan through the provisional arrest procedure, whereby provisional warrants can be issued pending the arrival of the actual ones.

Britain's request for Ryan's extradition and his disappearance will be discussed at an Irish Cabinet meeting today. It is expected to be some days, however, before the Irish Attorney-General reaches a decision.

The case comes at a particularly sensitive time for Mr Haughey's minority Fianna Fail government, which is under growing criticism, particularly from within its own ranks, for handing over terrorist suspects to courts in Britain.

## Senior Tories rally behind Lawson

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

Senior Conservatives were rallying behind Mr Nigel Lawson and his policy of high interest rates last night as the Chancellor prepared to face a critical two days.

With the Labour Party poised to attack Mr Lawson over his handling of the economy in today's Commons debate, the Chancellor, who had appeared virtually friendless over the weekend, was being bolstered by senior MPs and ministers.

It was disclosed that Mr Lawson had himself requested

that other members of the Government should not speak out over the weekend in support of his policy for fear of causing confusion.

It was that absence of public backing which led some Conservative MPs to speculate yesterday that Mr Lawson's short-term future was in doubt.

Today, however, the Prime Minister is expected to give him firm backing in the Commons before the debate begins and later in the Lords. Pay claim rejected, page 2

## Northern hemisphere facing ozone layer crisis

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

The first evidence that man-made compounds known as CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) are destroying the atmosphere above the northern hemisphere in the way that produced a hole in the protective ozone shield over Antarctica was reported yesterday to a scientific conference, in London.

The details were given by Dr Robert Watson, a British researcher working for the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, when describing an international project, planned for next year, to measure the extent and rate of the damage in the northern hemisphere. Thinning of the ozone layer

would let life-threatening forms of ultraviolet radiation reach the earth, causing an increase in skin cancers and cataracts and disruption to animal and plant life.

The latest analysis shows decreases ranging from 1.7 per cent to 3 per cent in ozone concentration over the past 18 years, between latitudes 30 and 64 degrees in the northern hemisphere, largely attributable to man-made interference.

Dr Watson said the same processes which produced the hole over Antarctica were occurring.

In addition to destroying ozone, CFCs contribute to the greenhouse effect, which threatens disruption of the world's climate. Dr Michael Oppenheimer, of New York's environmental defence fund, said if temperatures were allowed to continue rising it would spell ecological world disaster over the next 100 years.

He said climatic changes, caused by radiation trapped by the greenhouse gases emitted by man's activities, could lead to mass migrations of populations. Some countries would suffer yearly droughts, while others would find low lying land flooded by rising seas.

He said: "No country will escape the effects, if we continue to do things that allow the temperature to increase."

Temperatures would rise by three or four degrees centigrade, causing the polar cap to melt and other areas to become deserts. The sea would rise by

more than two feet with increased smog in large cities.

However, he said, measures could be taken to limit the problems.

Professor Tom Wigley, of the head of the climatic research unit at the University of East Anglia, said global warming would not show its full effects for another 60 years.

Calculating the speed of change from ozone destruction is difficult because the composition of the protective layer fluctuates with the seasons, and also varies between the tropical, temperate and arctic zones according to the climatic conditions.

## 44 angry midwives resign in regrading protest



Marching out: Carol Saunders, left, and Sharon Ramsey, emerging from North Middlesex hospital yesterday after handing in notices of resignation.

## Oil prices up as Opec cuts quotas

From A Correspondent  
Vienna

Opec has concluded its first production agreement in two years, setting an 18.5 million barrels-a-day ceiling for the first six months of 1989.

The result of eight days of bitter negotiations in Vienna is to cut 4 million barrels a day from what was admitted to be over-production by some members.

Crude prices rose strongly, with Brent oil for January 6 delivery closing at \$14.80 a barrel. Opec is aiming for \$18.

Both Iran and Iraq received equal quotas — 2.64 million barrels a day — for the first time, at the expense of the other 11 members who lost percentage of their market share. Saudi Arabia withdrew a demand for a \$15 benchmark price to reflect market demand.

Analysts predict that the agreement should last for several months, but will probably be reviewed before Opec's next general meeting on June 5.

Opec agreed to form a ministerial monitoring committee to check prices and supervise "strict adherence" to the new quotas.

Details, page 25

## Food production grants to farmers scrapped

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The biggest change in agricultural policies for nearly 50 years was confirmed officially yesterday that all grants aimed at increasing food production would end at midnight last night.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said he thought Britain was the first country in the EEC to abolish capital grants for this purpose. The policies would have to be approved by the EEC Commission, but he did not foresee any serious obstacles.

At the same time, Mr MacGregor announced that additional grants of up to £50 million would be made available to farmers in the next three years to control pollution, primarily from slurry and silage effluent.

Three new conservation grants would be introduced to encourage the regeneration of native woodlands and heathland moors and to assist in the cost of repairing traditional farm buildings. The cost of these has not been assessed.

The moves end the food self-sufficiency series which

began in the early years of the Second World War and culminated in the subsidies which formed part of the unsustainable EEC food mountains. Although government support for agricultural improvement schemes has been greatly reduced in recent years, capital grants last year totalled about £42 million.

On paper, the switch to environmental policies represents a significant saving. However, Mr MacGregor said that by the time the full package had been costed, the balance would probably be about even.

The grants which were discontinued last night include those for drainage schemes, roads, new farm buildings and the installation of new electric power supplies.

Mr MacGregor said: "I am not convinced that it makes good sense for the Government to continue to put money into projects which are likely to increase the production of commodities which area already in surplus. It

doesn't make sense to go on increasing facilities for further production." He described the change in priorities as not so much a watershed, but as a recognition of the great successes that had been achieved.

The main priorities of the grants schemes were to reduce damage caused by effluent escaping into water courses and to widen support for conservation work in general. Because these were priority areas for farmers in lowlands and uplands, the differential for most grants would be narrowed to 10 per cent.

Mr MacGregor said recorded incidents of pollution from farms were at an alarming level. Although they represented only one in five of all pollution incidents, silage effluent and slurry were both highly toxic. Prevention and treatment imposed a heavy burden on farmers.

He said grants would still be available for maintaining existing drainage schemes. Enhanced grants for the replacement of heated glass-houses would continue while grants for replanting orchards would be reinstated.

## Serious threat to patients

By Jill Sherman and Ruth Gledhill

Forty-four out of 55 staff midwives handed in their resignations at a London hospital yesterday in a mass protest over the regrading exercise, as more than a thousand nurses took part in a day of action throughout the city.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, in an attempt to avert further action last night, published details of the gradings awarded, claiming that most nurses had had substantial rises.

The unprecedented move at the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, in North London, poses the first serious threat to patient services during the current dispute. Managers at the hospital, who appealed to the staff to reconsider their decision, admitted that they might have difficulty filling the posts by Christmas and maternity services could be severely disrupted.

The staff midwives handed in a joint resignation letter, giving one month's notice, after the hospital and Harin-

Continued on page 24, col 4

## US not to oppose moving UN debate

From Mohsin Ali, Washington  
and James Bone, New York

The United States, which has denied a visit to Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who had wanted to address the United Nations General Assembly, said yesterday that it did not oppose moving the session to Geneva, which could be achieved by a simple majority of members.

Britain and other European Community nations would be likely to vote in favour.

Explaining the US position, the State Department spokesman, Mr Charles Redman, said that while the US did not favour such a proposal, "we do not oppose it".

The US did not oppose General Assembly consideration of the Palestinian question, he said, adding: "There are PLO spokesmen able to state their position freely in New York; we have

no objection to that." The statement was an attempt to allay mounting criticism from the UN, the Arab world and even America's allies in Europe over the personal decision of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, to bar Mr Arafat.

Early yesterday, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Arab anger...  
Leading article...17

Secretary-General, said the US decision was incompatible with its obligations under the UN Headquarters Agreement.

"If maintained, this action is likely to complicate and render more difficult the forthcoming debate on the 'Question of Palestine' and the 'Situation in the Middle East,'" Señor Pérez de Cuellar said.

## UK tank is 'favoured by Cabinet'

By Nicholas Wood and Michael Evans

Cabinet ministers have agreed in principle to buy the British-built Challenger Mark 2 main battle tank for the Army instead of the American rival tank, the M1A1 Abrams, according to senior Conservative backbenchers and Whitehall sources.

Last week the Cabinet's overseas and defence committee, which considered the merits of the British and American bids for the £1 billion contract, reached an "expression of intent" in favour of the Challenger. The source of the decision was the M1A1 Abrams, which the source said:

However they stressed that no final decision had been reached. General Dynamics, the US firm offering the M1A1 Abrams, could still win the order if its offset proposals could safeguard jobs.

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## WIN £24,000

### Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Two readers shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Accumulator fund stands at £24,000. There is another chance to win £4,000 today. Prices: page 33

## Picasso sets record of £20.9m

Picasso's 'Acrobate et jeune Arlequin' became the most expensive twentieth-century work of art at auction when it sold for £20.9 million at Christie's in London last night, double the estimate.

It was bought by an unidentified Japanese man and brings a fortune into the hands of an unnamed descendant of Roger Janssen, the Belgian collector who braved the Nazis in 1939, buying it at the famous 'Degenerate Art' auction for Sfr 80,000.

'Acrobate et jeune Arlequin' was painted in 1905 when Picasso was 21 and had just arrived in Paris from Spain. It is one of his most important 'Rose Period' paintings.

## Baptism of Princess

Princess Beatrice of York, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, is to be baptized in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace on December 20 by Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York. Page 3

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★★★★★ SL



## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Drivers loyal to company cars

More than two-thirds of company car drivers say they would keep their cars even if the Chancellor wiped out the financial benefit of having a such a car, something hinted at in the last Budget when company car taxation was doubled.

According to a study by Hertz Leasing among 600 salesmen, middle managers and directors, most would expect a pay rise in compensation for any increase in personal taxation on company cars. Salesmen do not want their company cars to be replaced by a system of companies paying a mileage allowance for use of private cars.

Only one third of all salesmen would continue to drive a new car if companies no longer supplied transport. Most would buy a car 18 months to two years old. That would cut new car sales in Britain by about 500,000 annually and undermine the position of the UK manufacturers.

## Russians set for gold

The Soviet Union defeated Bulgaria 3-1 in Sunday's 13th round in the Chess Olympiad, at Salonica in Greece, virtually guaranteeing a Soviet gold medal with only one round remaining. The Russians have 37 points out of a possible 52, with England in second place on 33 points. Even in the unlikely event of the Russians losing 0-4 in the final round today and England making a 4-0 victory, experts said the Soviet Union was likely to take first place under the tie-breaking system. England drew 2-2 with the Philippines in round 13.

## TV man 'threatened'

Mr Roger Cook, the television investigator, was blackmailed by "loyalist" paramilitaries who believed he was a building contractor. Belfast Crown Court was told yesterday. Large sums of money for the Ulster Defence Association were demanded. But, unknown to the blackmailers, their meeting with the journalist was filmed by his crew. It was alleged. Mr Cook, presenter of *The Cook Report*, will give evidence in the trial, in which four men are accused of extorting money from Roman Catholic building contractors.

## Ulster council reform

Proposals for a radical shake-up in the conduct of local government in Northern Ireland were unveiled yesterday by Mr Richard Needham, Under-Secretary of State, in a consultative paper. The district auditor's powers would be strengthened to allow him to intervene to prevent a council from incurring unlawful expenditure, such as in promoting a particular party line or doctrine. Councils would have to invite private tenders for services, including refuse collection, catering, recreation and leisure.

## Ridley gives the reasons for expert's resignation

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government yesterday gave details of a new green Bill to be introduced later in this Parliament, including powers to control the import of hazardous waste.

And amid Labour attacks that the Cabinet's concern with environmental issues was mere window dressing, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, sought to minimize the embarrassment caused by the departure of Mr Rod Perriman, Chief Inspector of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, only four months after his deputy had resigned in dissatisfaction at the resources afforded to the inspectorate.

Mr Ridley claimed yesterday that Mr Perriman had not resigned, as colleagues first suggested, in protest at underfunding and understaffing.

He told MPs during the Queen's Speech debate that because of media speculation Mr Perriman and the department had agreed that the reason for his resignation could be stated publicly: a dispute about "some elements of proposals for reorganizing HM Inspectorate of Pollution in the regions".

"It is in no sense over a disagreement with government policies or over lack of resources for the inspectorate."

Mr Ridley, who was frequently interrupted during the Labour benches during a speech which he devoted

largely to countering allegations about water privatization made by Dr John Cunningham, the Opposition spokesman, in a broadcast on Radio Cumbria, promised that the Government would provide the inspectorate with the resources needed to do the job it had been given.

He also promised a further green Bill during the lifetime of this Parliament. It would reform waste disposal law to increase the powers of waste disposal authorities, place a statutory duty of care on producers and holders of waste and control imports of wastes and fly tipping.

It would also cover the introduction of an integrated system to control industrial pollution, putting the inspectorate on a statutory footing and introducing a cross-media system of control that took account of the unity of the natural environment.

Mr Ridley told MPs that substantial changes to the legal infrastructure were needed and that more consultation was required to get it right. The Bill would be introduced when the Government was ready "during the lifetime of this Parliament".

Dr Cunningham said the Government was asking MPs to believe that it had taken on a green mantle. Environmentalists, industry, Mr Ridley's own pollution inspectors did not believe it and the Opposition did not believe it, either.

Parliament, page 12

## On campaign trail in Epping



Mr Steven Norris (right) with Mr Jeffrey Archer, the author and former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, canvassing yesterday in the Epping Forest by-election campaign.

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Conservatives drew first blood yesterday on the opening day of the campaign for the Epping Forest, north-east London, by-election.

The trees of the constituency's much-loved forest are suffering from atmospheric pollution, and Mr Steven Norris, the Conservative candidate, challenged his opponents to say whether, like him, they had converted their cars to lead-free petrol.

Mr Michael Pettman, the SDP candidate, admitted that only his wife's car had been. The Labour candidate, Mr Stephen Murray, son of Lord Murray of Epping Forest, the former TUC general secretary, said he was "considering" having his converted. Mr And-

rew Thompson, for the Social and Liberal Democrats, said he would have his converted that day.

However, the signs were that Mr Norris will be on the defensive in the next three weeks, with last Friday's record trade deficit and further rise in interest rates giving heart to the three challengers in ostensibly the safest of Tory seats.

The leaders of both the sipping centre parties went to the constituency, an indication of how important it is to the credibility of each to achieve respectable results.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Social and Liberal Democrats, said that by repeatedly raising interest

rates, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had "mugged the people of Epping and of Britain on their way to the bank to cash in their tax cuts".

Dr David Owen said that the bursting of the "bubble of Nigel Lawson's exuberance" had given life to the contest.

Mr Clive Soley, Labour's housing spokesman, said Mr Lawson's "incredible mismanagement of the economy" would quickly sober the 63 per cent of owner-occupiers in Epping Forest.

General election: Sir John Biggs-Davison (Conservative) 31,536; Mr Anthony Humphreys (SDP Alliance) 10,023; Mr Stephen Murray (Labour) 9,499; R Denhard (Green) 695. Majority: 21,513.

## Engineers' 7% pay claim is rejected

The Engineering Employers' Federation yesterday rejected a pay claim on behalf of one million workers seeking a 7 per cent pay rise and a reduction in the working week from 39 to 35 hours.

Dr James McFarlane, director-general of the Federation, told the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in London that the 35-hour week without loss of pay would increase hourly rates by 11 per cent.

He said: "You sought to spike our guns by saying that anything in our reply that referred to rising inflation, the trade deficit, production costs or an economic slowdown would be discounted as predictable arguments from employers. Well, they may be predictable, but they are nonetheless real."

Engineering was not in recession, but there were "danger signs" such as the record trade gap and the 1 per cent increase in the base rate to 13 per cent. The 14 unions involved are being offered an increase on minimum rates of £5.75 to £117.58 for skilled and £4.14 to £84.68 for unskilled workers. Estimated average earnings are £175 and £125 respectively.

The unions' eight-point claim was for a "substantial increase" in minimum rates, a reduction in the working week without loss of pay, and improved holiday entitlements, overtime and shift payments.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, described the management offer of 5.1 per cent as "less than adequate". He said the workforce had achieved increased productivity through changes in working practices and other improvements.

The talks will resume on December 14.

## Six-day working

## UDM signs coal agreement

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers signed an agreement with British Coal yesterday for the introduction of six-day working at the £47 million Asfordby mine in Leicestershire.

British Coal had made it clear that without such a deal, it would have written off the £120 million already spent on development costs for the mine, planned to be the biggest in Britain.

At the same time, it announced the closure of two pits in South Wales, with the loss of 1,400 jobs.

Signing of the Asfordby agreement will widen the rift between the Nottinghamshire-based UDM and the National Union of Mineworkers, whose president, Mr Arthur Scargill, is steadfastly opposed to the new flexible working patterns.

Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal, has said investment worth a further £600 million will not go ahead if miners insist on sticking to the five-day week. Yesterday,

Mr Len Harris, the corporation's area director, said: "This is a landmark for the industry. Without it, we could not have gone ahead with the investment plan. The project would have been stopped."

He said the UDM had secured the creation of more than 1,400 jobs for the area and at the same time achieved increased leisure time for their members, accompanied by an increase in earnings.

The deal will increase the pressure Mr Scargill is facing from areas such as Scotland and Wales, where the UDM is mounting a determined recruitment campaign in the hope of signing an agreement for the proposed £90 million "super-pit" at Margam.

Yesterday's announcement of the closure of the Marine colliery in Gwent and the Cynheidre colliery in West Wales will strain the traditional loyalty between local NUM leaders and the national union to breaking point. Although they have accepted in

principle six-day working, they are not prepared to break ranks from the Scargill line.

Yesterday's Asfordby agreement delivers a further blow to Mr Scargill as it gives the UDM sole negotiating rights at the pit until 2001.

When Asfordby achieves full production in 1993, it will produce four million tonnes of coal a year, far outstripping the record held by the Thoresby pit in Nottinghamshire, which is scheduled to exceed two million tonnes next year.

Under five-day production, Asfordby would have been capable of producing only three million tonnes.

British Coal issued an ultimatum yesterday to miners at two pits in Scotland - lose 500 jobs or face closure.

The NUM has been given until Friday to respond to the ultimatum, affecting Bilton Glen and Monkton Hall in Lothian, where production has slumped to "unacceptably" low levels.

## Military satellite launch next week

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The first of a new generation of military communication satellites for the armed forces will be launched from South America next week.

SkyNet 4B, costing about £60 million, will enable troops stationed around the world to communicate, whether they are soldiers serving with the British Army on the Rhine or crews in nuclear submarines.

The Royal Navy in particular is planning increased use of space communications, provided all goes well with next month's launch and others planned for the next two years.

The satellite, measuring 6 ft square, has been built by British Aerospace. Marconi is

responsible for the communications payload and the ground control equipment.

The satellite will be fired into space from Kourou, French Guiana, on December 9 by the same Ariane 4 rocket carrying the 16-channel Astra television satellite.

The SkyNet system has been plagued by misfortune since the first experimental satellite was launched in 1969. What was the world's first geostationary defence communications satellite stopped working three years later.

SkyNet 4B, with six communication channels, will be positioned above the Atlantic off the west coast of Africa.

## Home cost sends firm up north

A computer firm based in Cambridge has switched expansion plans to Scotland, creating 300 new jobs yesterday, because rising house prices have made it impossible to recruit extra staff.

EEOC Incorporated, the American electronics firm, is the latest important company to be affected by house prices in Cambridge. The city's technology-led boom helped raise property prices by 38 per cent between January and July.

EEOC employs 45 people at its factory at Bar Hill. It advertised for 300 extra staff but response was so poor that it announced yesterday that its £4-million new plant will be in Irvine new town, Scotland.

## Dispute over new TV chief

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A boardroom dispute has broken out at Scottish Television over who should take over as managing director and lead the company into the 1990s.

Mr Bill Brown, who is due to retire as managing director next June when he becomes 60, wants Mr Gus Macdonald, the station's programme director, to be his successor.

But he is opposed by the majority of the board, including Sir Campbell Fraser, the chairman, who is convinced the company needs a businessman rather than a programme maker to prepare Scottish TV for the bid to retain its franchise.

The company will almost certainly need increased financial resources to be able to tender successfully. The non-

executive directors are believed to favour appointing Mr Bill Cockburn, the Scots-born managing director of Royal Mail letters, who has helped transform its delivery operation.

A third possibility is Mr Alan Montgomery, financial director at Scottish TV, who is highly regarded by senior staff for the way he masterminded the stock market rights issue for the company.

Mr Macdonald is an acknowledged high class programme maker but critics say his lack of business experience could be fatal in the new television environment.

The boardroom dispute will come to a head this Friday when the appointment is due to be announced.

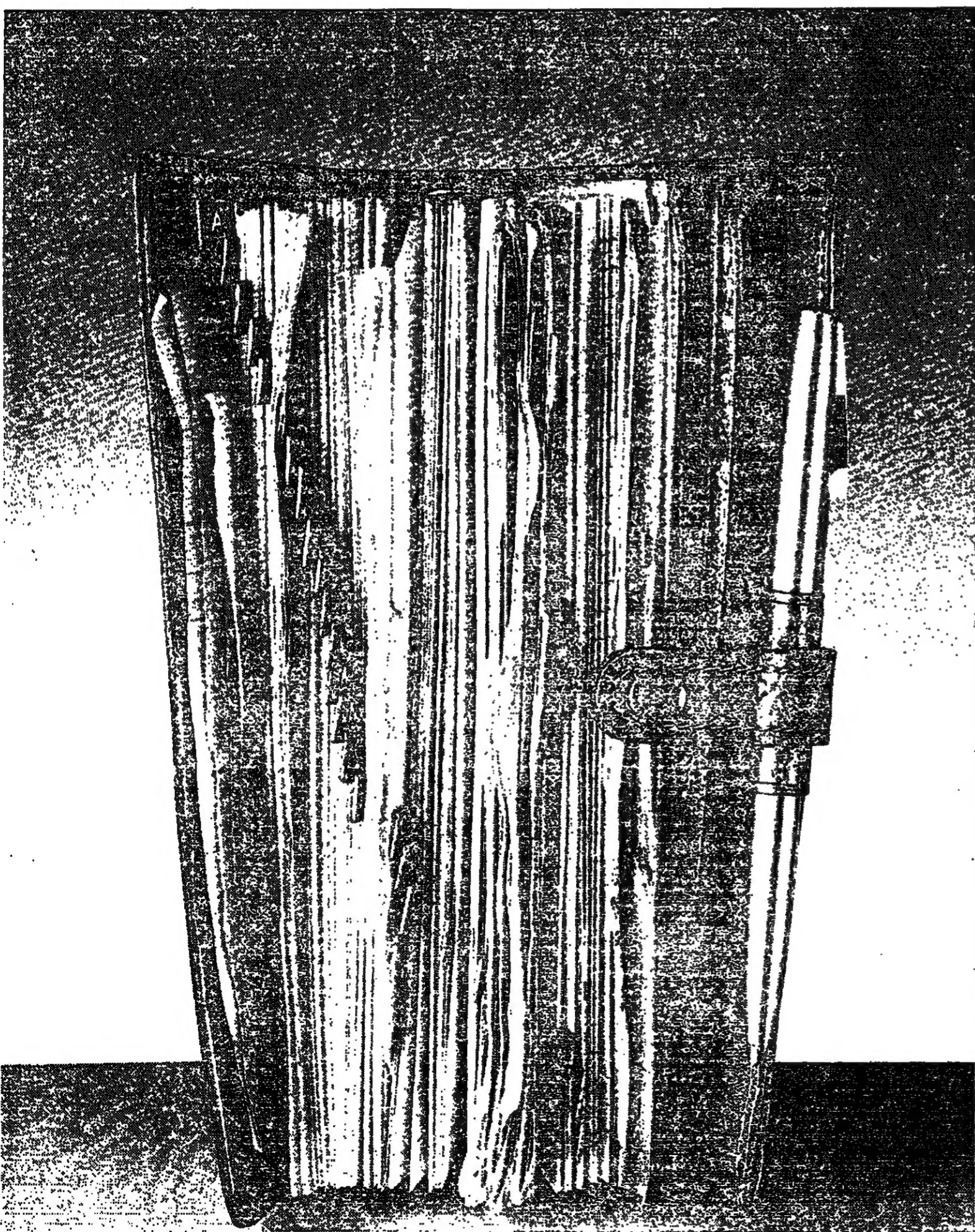
TV-am, the commercial

breakfast television station which has recently been criticized by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, would not have won a franchise with its present programmes, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the authority chairman, yesterday said.

"The IBA's view of what the British public wanted at breakfast time was an overly high-minded one and we have had to adjust it."

"But morning television was a rather special slice of broadcasting and it was inevitable it would take some time to discover what people wanted."

He said TV-am had responded very substantially to the criticisms made and the pressure to improve its programme-making record.



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has rejected a pay claim on behalf of  
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by 99 to 35 votes.

James McFadden  
said the Council's decision  
was based on the fact that  
engineers' pay was already  
above the average for other  
professionals in the motor  
industry.

He said: "I am sure that  
engineers will be disappointed  
by this decision, but it is  
based on the facts. The  
Council has to take into  
account the fact that  
engineers' pay is already  
above the average for other  
professionals in the motor  
industry."

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was already above the  
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professionals in the  
motor industry.

agreement

Home can  
send firm  
up north

new TV chie

# Papers for Evans's extradition to be lodged this week

By David Sapsted and Susan MacDonald

Formal papers requesting the extradition of David John Evans, wanted in Britain in connection with the death of Anna Humphries, aged 15, will be presented by the Government to the French authorities later this week, it was disclosed last night.

It remained unclear, however, when the 31-year-old farm labourer would be returned to Britain, despite the fact he has expressed a wish to come back as soon as possible.

The girl's body was found on Sunday, almost three weeks after she disappeared from Penley on the Wales-Shropshire border as she walked home from school.

Mr Evans, aged 31, from Bettisfield, near by, is being held on an *ex parte* extradition in St Paul prison, Lyons, after being picked up a week ago hitchhiking in south-eastern France.

The Crown Prosecution Service said last night that the complexities of the extradition procedures meant that formal documentation could not be presented until later this week, still within the 14-day limit which the French Ministry of Justice said yesterday was the maximum time Evans could be held without the papers.

Two Welsh detectives are still in Lyons awaiting Evans's appearance before an examining magistrate in the Court of Appeal for an extradition hearing.

The Ministry of Justice will then have to approve the decision.

Such procedures normally take a month or more but authorities on both sides of the Channel are attempting to make it dramatically speedier.

The village of Penley on the Welsh-Shropshire border was quiet yesterday after three weeks as the centre of intensive police activity.

"The news has really hit home. Before that we always must have had a little bit of hope. She was such a nice girl," Mrs Mavis Ledsam, in the village post office, said.

The Humphries family had placed a letter of thanks on the public notice board to all who had helped in the search for their daughter.

A special assembly will be held in her memory today in the Maelor comprehensive school, Penley, where Anna Humphries was a pupil and from where she set out to walk home exactly three weeks ago.

Mr Geoffrey Mason, headmaster, said the news of Anna Humphries's death had been received with great sadness.

There is a feeling of acute loss and despondency. Anna was a very pleasant, lively and outgoing child, popular with both staff and pupils.

"Those who came into contact with her could not fail to be affected by her energy and exuberance. We shall all miss her. Her family's loss will of course be the greater and it is the intention of the school to support them in any way possible."

The inquest on the girl will open tomorrow at Shrewsbury magistrates' court.

The end of any uncertainty about her fate has stunned Betty, the postmistress said. "The Humphries are such nice people. It has made everyone feel so sad. I cannot express it."

At St Chad's church in the neighbouring village of Hanmer, where prayers have been said for the girl throughout the three weeks when hundreds of local people joined in the search for her, the church prayer book was open yesterday at an appropriate page.

It read: "Let the prayer of Thy children who cry out of tribulation come unto Thee and to every soul that suffered great mercy, grant relief."

Prayers have been said for Anna at St Magdalena's church in Penley where Mrs Rosemary Humphries is treasurer and where Anna once sang in the choir.

Last night Mr Trevor Humphries expressed the family's gratitude for the many people who had helped in the search for his daughter.

They had come, he said, from all parts of the country and all walks of life. "They gave up their valuable time in order that our daughter Anna may be returned to us."

"The response from the public has been overwhelming and has touched us deeply. Words cannot express our gratitude to all the helpers and professional people, most of whom we will never meet to thank personally."

"At this very difficult time it is comforting to know that so many people are thinking and praying for our family, sending us cards, letters, flowers and sharing our grief."

"Their love and concern is something we will always hold dear as we face the future."

The post-mortem examination on Anna's body was carried out on Sunday night at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

# Double theatre bill on double agents

STEPHEN MARKESON



Simon Callow (left) the actor, and Alan Bennett discuss the finer points of a new double bill by Mr Bennett while providing lunch for other visitors to St James's Park, London, yesterday. *An Englishman Abroad* and *A Question of Attribution* will be staged by the National Theatre from December 1. The plays revolve around the spies Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt.

# Royal baptism at St James's Palace

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Beatrice of York, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York, who was born in August, is to be baptized in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace on December 20, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

In keeping with the baby's title, the christening of Beatrice Elizabeth Mary will be performed by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood. Most royal baptisms, including those of Prince William, Prince Henry and Master Peter Phillips, are conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. But the Queen, born Princess Elizabeth of York, was christened by the then Archbishop of York in 1926.

The Duke and Duchess personally chose to use St James's Palace for a royal christening; it was last so used for the baptism of Lady Gabriella Windsor, daughter of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, in 1981. The Queen, the Prince of Wales and Prince William were all baptized in Buckingham Palace, and Prince Henry was baptized at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

The magnificent Chapel Royal, built by Henry VIII in 1532 and still displaying its Holbein painted ceiling, was the scene of Charles I's last service on the morning of his execution.

It has been the scene of several royal marriages, including those of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and the future King George V and Queen Mary, in the days before royal weddings were public spectacles.

Princess Beatrice will be baptized with water from the Lily Font, made in 1840 for the christening of Queen Victoria's eldest daughter Victoria and used regularly for royal christenings ever since.

# Church is nearing break-up, paper says

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Editor

The Church of England could disintegrate "in as little as 20 years" unless it renews its historic and traditional faith, according to the manifesto of a new Anglican pressure group called *Church in Danger*, published yesterday.

The group has been started by MPs, members of the House of Lords, and journalists. It was launched at a meeting at the Houses of Parliament yesterday.

Its leaders include Lords Laverne, Hadden, and Williams of Elvel, and Mr John Gummer, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, who is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

The warning signs of the church's "disintegration", according to the group, include the division over the ordination of women, the "apparent denial" of basic beliefs by a bishop, the "debacle" over homosexuality, and the confusion and bitterness caused by the *Crockford Preface* a year ago.

*Church in Danger* (PO Box 132, East Radham, Norfolk PE31 8QT).

# Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

Mr Frederick Stegen, from Cobham, Surrey, was one of two winners to share yesterday's daily Portfolio prize of £4,000. Mr Stegen, aged 63, a retired company director, said he was planning to take his wife and daughter on holiday to Florence next spring. The other winner was Mr Leon Collins, from Leeds.

## GCSE success

# More pupils stay at school

By David Tyler, Education Editor

The first year of the GCSE examination showed an increase in the number of children of school-leaving age staying on at school, with nearly half the 16-year-olds in England and Wales now in full-time education, Mr Kenneth Baker said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Education told Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, that the number of young people aged 16 to 18 who stayed in full-time education had risen from 25 per cent in 1975 to 31 per cent in 1987 and 32 per cent in 1988.

In 1975, 37 per cent of 16-year-olds stayed on compared to 45 per cent in 1987 and 47 per cent this year. The figures for 18-year-olds were 12 per cent in 1975, 17 per cent in 1987 and 18 per cent in 1988.

Mr Baker said: "It is very encouraging that an ever-increasing proportion of young people are staying on in full-time education. I am delighted that they are recognizing the value of continued education in schools and colleges. This should lead to youngsters being better qualified for their working lives."

Mr Jack Straw commented: "It is good news and a vote of confidence in the comprehensive school, the GCSE, the tertiary college and the Labour Party whose authorities are responsible for the majority of the nation's education."

"There is anecdotal evidence to show that the tertiary colleges in particular have been successful in attracting people to stay on and that many young people prefer to stay in education than to go on the dole or join the YTS. And certainly the GCSE is a better, more broadly based examination that means something to the less able children."

Mr Baker ordered his chauffeur to take a half-mile detour across muddy playing fields yesterday to avoid protesting students after he had visited Garth Hill School, Bracknell, Berkshire, which is in the forefront of information technology studies.

The 40 students were protesting at government plans for student loans in place of grants.

The school has millions of pounds worth of computers donated by local and national companies as an "investment" in the future of pupils. Mr Baker said after his three-hour visit: "I was very impressed with what I saw, and it shows what can be done."

# 'Custodial sentences overused'

Custody centres often act as "finishing schools for delinquents", Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday.

He was appealing for greater use of non-custodial penalties for 17 to 20-year-olds convicted of less serious offences.

Mr Patten told a conference in Bristol given by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders that nearly twice as many 17-year-olds as 16-year-olds received custodial sentences, while juveniles were four times as likely to be cautioned as young adults.

● The first branch of a breakaway prison union was in process of being formed last night by officers at Eastwood Park Young Offender Institution, Gloucestershire. It is expected to be followed by a second branch at Usk Young Offender Institution, Gwent.

# Women warned on brittle bones

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

More than half of the women in Britain are likely to develop osteoporosis, or brittle bone disease, unless they receive hormone replacement therapy, a health conference was told yesterday.

The condition, estimated to cause the premature death of 5,000 women a year, is linked to hormonal changes during the menopause.

Dr John Stevenson, consultant endocrinologist at the Craydon Clinic, London, told the Women's Health Concern meeting in Westminster that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was suitable for most women.

Critics have argued that HRT, which uses low-dose natural hormones, produces the same abnormalities in cells as artificial hormones, such as those used in contraceptive pills.

Mrs Joan Jenkins, founder and co-ordinator of the WHC, said she had been using HRT for 17 years.

"It is tragic that in 1987 only 2 per cent of those in their menopause years were using HRT and at the same time, one in two women were developing osteoporosis in the first five to 10 years of the menopause", she said.

Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health, told the conference that the WHC will receive a government grant of £15,000 a year for the next three years to support its advice services on gynaecological and related health problems.

Osteoporosis involves brittle bones and spine curvature and is estimated to cost the National Health Service £500 million a year to treat.

Spectrum, page 14



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# Bruno has QC on the ropes

By Robin Young

In the absence of Mike Tyson, Frank Bruno, Britain's top boxing heavyweight, sensed himself yesterday with a little sparring against Mr Mark Strachan, QC, a legal adversary.

He was continuing his evidence at the High Court, where Mr Al Hamilton is suing Mr Terry Lawless, the boxer's manager, for 5 per cent of Mr Bruno's earnings. That, as the boxer observed yesterday, is "serious corn".

Mr Strachan's position was not an enviable one. The case is being heard in Court 2, St Dunstan's House, which does not have a witness box in which Mr Bruno's 6ft 4in frame might safely be contained. Instead, witness and cross-examining barrister stood eyeball to eyeball across a narrow desk. Nothing Mr Strachan could throw troubled the boxer. "You're building up to something," Mr Bruno said during a long series of questions, "so okay, fire away."

When the barrister suggested that Mr Hamilton, the former common-law husband of the boxer's sister, had influenced his early career, Mr Bruno retorted: "Are you crazy? If you want somebody to do something for you, you appoint them to do the job. You wouldn't get cowboys in from outside to run your business for you, would you?"

Immaculate in a double-breasted blue blazer, rocking gently as he flexed his leg muscles, Mr Bruno gave his measured opinion that Mr Hamilton was "trying to live off my back". Had Mr Hamilton not been "enthusiastic" for his career?

"Enthusiastic for my pocket, you mean," parried Frank. "I had definite vibes for this man. He was not really my cup of tea."

When he had heard Mr Hamilton asking for a 5 per cent share in his contract, the boxer felt "galled".

"I was a little bit of a ruckhead when I was young", he admitted. He had signed a management agreement with a Mr Bert McCarthy, and immediately regretted it.

His evidence flowed as easily as combination punches in the gym. Mr Justice Brooke told the boxer: "You are doing very well, Mr Bruno."

The case continues, but Mr Bruno earned a victory yesterday on points.



# Patrick Ryan: missionary who allegedly turned to terrorism

By Jamie Dettmer  
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Father Patrick Ryan returned from missionary work in Africa 20 years ago to praise from the Pallottine Order which considered him a hard-working priest who had a gift for preaching the gospel.

They had no inkling then that he would give up his Christian mission and instead allegedly pursue a career as an IRA fixer and one of its links with Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

Father Ryan, who served in Tanzania, was a highly active priest who cared not only for the spiritual needs of his flock but for their material well-being. He soon realized that he would improve his standing with his parishioners if he could show a greater understanding of their economic plight. However, unlike some priests, he carefully eschewed becoming

involved in the country's politics. He was no liberation theologian, according to colleagues.

Father Ryan was born in June 1930 at Rossmore, Co. Tipperary, one of six children of "respectable farming stock". He attended the Christian Brothers school at Thurles, a few miles from Rossmore, studied for the priesthood at the Pallottine College in the town and was ordained in June 1954.

He went to Tanzania almost immediately and was described by colleagues as a good-humoured man who was much concerned with teaching the Christian gospel in pagan lands. None of his colleagues recall him expressing views on Irish politics.

He seemed destined to remain a well-respected Irish priest, a possible candidate for administrative authority in his order, and was talked of as a future

superior. In late 1966, he took up work in Ireland and England. In 1968, he spent nearly a year in London working with Irish immigrants.

It was after a trip to England between 1971 and 1972 that colleagues noticed a change. He talked much about republican prisoners in Northern Ireland and England and was clearly opposed to the introduction of internment in Northern Ireland.

It was at about this time that the Gardaí began to take an interest in the priest from Tipperary. He was seen attending IRA funerals and demonstrations in the Irish Republic.

In 1974, Father Ryan left the order without notifying his superiors. However, he has never been expelled and could celebrate the sacraments, although according to the superior of the Pallottine Order in Ireland, Father

William Hanley, he would require permission to do so. Since then, he has turned up at various times in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, The Netherlands and is believed to have visited Libya twice.

His family claims that he was involved in fund raising to help republican prisoners. Mr. Elio Malocco, his solicitor, claims he has been a victim of prejudiced reporting and a smear attempt by the British security service. "Just because he was a priest in Ireland, the British have portrayed him as a terrorist", Mr. Malocco says.

British and other western security agencies allege that Father Ryan has been one of the IRA's most able and determined fixers, who allegedly helped the IRA launder money and gold given to it by Colonel Gaddafi, and that he had allegedly bought arms and explosives.

He also allegedly realized that a gadget designed to remind motorists when the time on their parking meter was about to expire could be adapted easily to make a bomb timer.

In May 1975, he allegedly bought the entire stock of a novelty shop in Zurich. In the next 18 months, similar gadgets were found at the scene of 185 different explosions in Northern Ireland and in three bombs in London.

In 1976, the British persuaded the Swiss authorities to mount a surveillance operation on Father Ryan which culminated in his arrest after being found in possession of bomb-making devices. He was held for 10 days but released because possessing the devices did not constitute an offence under Swiss law.

According to British security sources, the 1976 incident figures strongly in the case the British Attorney General is

putting to Dublin for Father Ryan's extradition.

When arrested in Belgium, he was allegedly surrounded by workshop manuals for making and handling bombs. There are allegations that he was involved in designing explosive devices. British police want to question him about the detonator used in the Hyde Park bombing five years ago.

Scotland Yard also want to question him about his stay in Benidorm, Spain, where he is alleged to have met the three IRA terrorists who were shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar.

His movements around western Europe in the past few months provoked allegations that he may have acted as a quartermaster for the active service unit led by Gerard Hanratty and Terence McGeough, who were arrested by West German police three months ago.

## Dublin view

## Legal loopholes and political pressure put case in jeopardy

By Our Irish Affairs Correspondent

There was scepticism in Dublin legal circles last night that Mr. John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, would clear extradition warrants enabling the Gardaí to serve them on Father Patrick Ryan.

Charges of conspiring to murder and cause explosions, alleged in the warrants, are rare in the Irish Republic. One of the last occasions when conspiracy charges were used was in 1970, against Mr. Charles Haughey, the present Irish prime minister, who was acquitted of conspiring to import arms illegally into Ireland for use north of the border.

It is also being emphasized in Dublin that the charges of conspiring to murder and cause explosions are not covered by the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, signed by the Irish Republic in 1986. Only the "use" of explosives and weapons is covered by the convention.

Under arrangements with Britain, any extradition request has to be cleared first by the Irish Attorney General. Once cleared, the Gardaí can act and the case then goes to a district court. It is thought that even if Mr. Murray accepts the warrants, almost any district

court would reject the application on grounds that the charges are too imprecise — similar to the Belgian government's reasons for declining Britain's request.

Even if London conceded and allowed Father Ryan to be prosecuted under the Irish Republic's extra-territorial legislation, Dublin lawyers believe the case would be unlikely to succeed.

The Irish Cabinet will consider the request today at its regular weekly meeting, but government sources say it is doubtful that a decision will be made before the weekend.

The Irish government is coming under strong pressure from its own backbenchers not to allow the Ryan application to go any further.

Mr. Haughey has been finding it increasingly difficult to keep many Fianna Fáil MPs in line with his administration's support for extradition arrangements with Britain, which come up for review next month.

Fianna Fáil MPs, especially those with seats close to the border with Northern Ireland, fear the extradition issue could cost them their jobs.

Last night, it was still unclear how specific Mr. Patrick Mayhew, the British

Attorney General, had been in his memorandum to the Irish government in support of the extradition warrants.

It is thought that he cited the 1976 arrest of Father Ryan in Switzerland, where he was found in possession of bomb-making devices similar to ones used a few months earlier in IRA explosions in England. He was held in Switzerland for 10 days, then released because the possession of timing devices was not an offence under Swiss law.

The warrants allege that Father Ryan conspired with persons unknown to commit murder and to cause explosions in the United Kingdom between 1975 and 1988.

Irish MPs in the opposition parties, as well as Fianna Fáil, believe those allegations are too vague to secure extradition and they are angry that the British Government has pursued the case after the Belgian authorities refused to extradite Father Ryan to Britain.

Last night, the Irish Attorney General said he had received the warrants and the memorandum from the British Government. He also said that owing to the nature of the case, it would be "some time" before he reached a decision.



Father Patrick Ryan, alleged to have been one of the IRA's most able and determined fixers, who allegedly helped launder money and gold from Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

## Brussels view

## British extradition warrant 'too vague'

By Michael Dynes and Peter Guilford

Britain's attempt to extradite Patrick Ryan, the former Roman Catholic priest wanted in connection with a series of alleged IRA terrorist offences, failed because the extradition warrant was "too vague" according to M. Georges-Henri Beauthier, Ryan's defence lawyer in Brussels.

In a telephone interview yesterday, M. Beauthier said that the extradition warrant listed four alleged offences, but it failed to provide the necessary dates and names pertaining to the charges, which the Belgian government needed in order to comply with the extradition request.

Scotland Yard's extradition warrant informed the Belgian legal authorities that Ryan was wanted in connection with one charge of conspiracy to commit murder between 1975 and 1988 and three charges of possession of explosives between 1982 and 1988, including one charge of possessing 52 integrated circuits used for detonating explosives.

Britain submitted its extradition request on September 9, almost three months after Ryan was arrested by the Belgian authorities for entering the country on a false passport last June. However, extradition was delayed repeatedly because of the failure of Britain to clarify the charge.

According to M. Beauthier, Ryan could only have been extradited on the first charge of conspiracy, on the assumption

that the Belgian authorities accepted the charge as equivalent to the Belgian offence of "association with criminals".

Under the 1901 Anglo-Belgian extradition treaty, suspects can only be extradited if the offence in question is recognized by both countries. However, while the Belgian judiciary accepted that conspiracy and association were equivalent offences, the Belgian government voted to overrule the decision.

M. Beauthier acknowledges that the government's reason for denying the extradition requests amounted to little more than a fig-leaf justifying the Belgian cabinet's decision on Friday to return Father Ryan to Dublin.

Far more important was the fear of an IRA terrorist backlash in Belgium, the pressure exerted on the government not to extradite Ryan by the Roman Catholic church, and two French court precedents earlier this year not to extradite Mr. Harry Flynn and Mr. Sean Hughes, two alleged IRA terrorists wanted by Britain, on the grounds that they would not be given a fair trial.

In addition, M. Beauthier submitted an Amnesty International report on alleged human rights violations in Britain, which he insists was instrumental in helping the Belgian government reach its controversial decision against extradition.

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## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a tropical scene. In the foreground, a person is partially visible on the left, looking towards the right. The background is dominated by dense foliage, including palm trees and other tropical plants, with bright sunlight filtering through the canopy, creating a strong glare at the top center.

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# Sixth bomb found as Welsh extremists claim responsibility

By Michael Horsnell

A sixth incendiary device was found yesterday as an elusive Welsh extremist group claimed responsibility for the fire-bomb campaign against west London estate agents selling second homes in Wales.

The latest device, found by staff arriving for work at the office of John D Wood in Kensington Church Street, was deactivated by officers from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

Shortly after it was found, a man claiming to represent Meibion Glyndwr (Sons of Glendower) telephoned the Cardiff office of a national newspaper and gave a warning of a sixth device.

He said: "More attacks will follow unless the English leave Wales. There are six bombs. He then hung up."

The anti-terrorist squad is co-operating with police in North Wales after an escalation in the violent protest at the sale of rural Welsh property to English buyers.

North Wales police said last night: "This is a serious, determined group who are using potentially lethal devices. It is only a matter of time before

someone gets killed."

Crude incendiary devices were pushed through letter boxes of five offices at the weekend. Extensive damage was caused to the office of Strutt and Parker in Hill Street, Mayfair. A fire officer injured his back falling through a floor. The police have warned estate agent staff to be on the look out for suspicious packages.

A secretary at John D Wood noticed the latest device while opening mail at 8.50am. It was about the size of a book and had been pushed through the letter box. The staff of eight evacuated the building for 45 minutes while the device was deactivated and taken away.

The company said: "This office deals with central London property but we do have a country homes department, of course, with Welsh properties on the books. I think this branch was singled out because it happens to be the first one listed in *Yellow Pages*. We're thankful it didn't go off but it's a worrying matter."

Scotland Yard said: "This device is being linked with the earlier incidents. We are

aware there was a telephone call by Sons of Glendower claiming responsibility. The latest find came before that call. We are keeping an open mind on who may be responsible and the claim will be treated in the appropriate manner."

Meibion Glyndwr switched its attacks to estate agencies after a long-running campaign of damage to isolated holiday cottages in north and west Wales. North Wales police who formed a special squad of detectives to trace the group have made no arrests.

The firebombs in Mayfair, Notting Hill and Chelsea are believed to be similar to those found at estate agencies in six border counties last month.

Dr Dafydd Thomas, MP for Merionnydd Nant Conwy, president of Plaid Cymru, called for an urgent meeting with the Home Secretary to ensure additional resources for police investigating the attacks.

He said: "Whoever are responsible for these acts have no interest in solving the real problems of working people in Wales or in London."

## Royal Academy tribute to Constable



Mr Piers Rogers, secretary of the Royal Academy, displaying a sketch of Somerset House by John Constable, bought two weeks ago at Sotheby's for a bargain price of £40,000. The painting of the Royal Academy's first home, executed in 1818 when Constable became an academician, was bought through the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Ellerman fund. Mr Roger de Grey, the president, said it was the first acquisition by the academy within memory.

## Good price for early English furniture

The contents of the medieval Manor House at Ashby St Ledgers, Northamptonshire, came up for auction by Christie's yesterday.

There were some good prices, although this fine

**SALEROOM**  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

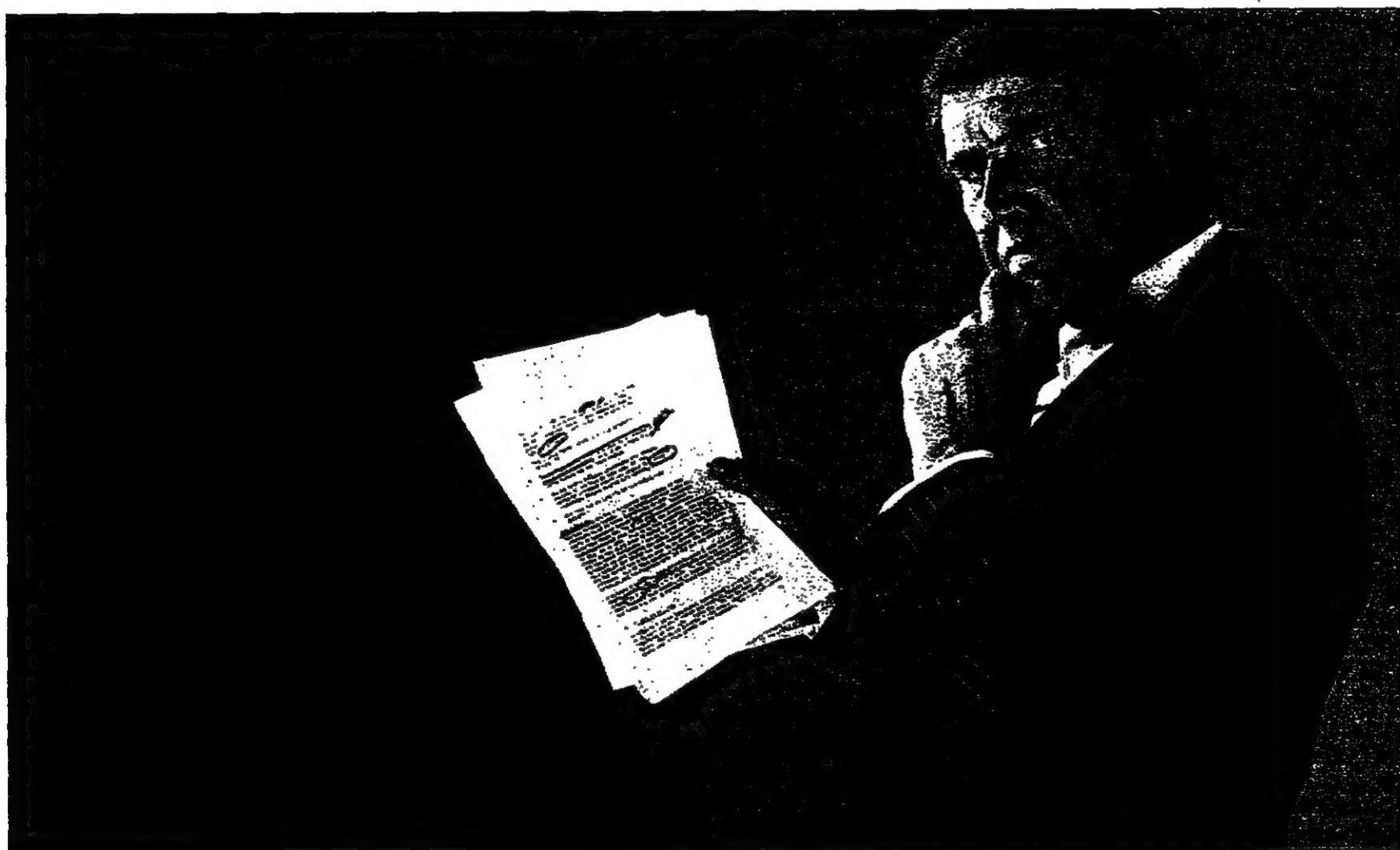
collection of early English furniture had not graced the house for generations, but was collected by its present owners, Mr and Mrs Ronald Billington.

A set of 10 mahogany dining chairs of George III style sold for £46,200 (four times estimate) to a telephone buyer, and a pair of Cary's terrestrial and celestial globes of the same period fetched £26,400 (estimate £15,000).

A pair of George IV parcel-gilt and calamar sofa tables with ring and lion mask handles sold well below their estimate for £19,800.

The house was acquired in 1903 by Ivor Churchill Guest, later Baron Wimborne, and remodelled by Lutyens. It belonged in the fourteenth century to Sir William Catesby, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who was executed after the Battle of Bosworth.

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## Girl denies murder statement to police

A teenage girl accused of stabbing a 13-year-old pupil to death admitted at Northampton Crown Court yesterday that she sometimes concocted "lying stories".

However, the girl, aged only 12 when Carol Baldwin was killed on March 26, insisted that she was not involved in the pupil's murder.

She said she had been "wasting police time" when she told officers investigating the murder that she had gone out that evening to a park in Northampton, where Carol's body was later discovered.

Cross-examined by Mr James Wadsworth, QC, for the prosecution, she said she was "just guessing" when she told police about seeing a girl who looked like Carol near a playing field that night.

"Why didn't you tell them

that you didn't go to the park?" he asked. "They wouldn't believe me", she said.

The court was told that she admitted to detectives that she had intended merely to frighten Carol, then stabbed her after being called "a slag".

Mr Wadsworth suggested that what she told police was the truth and she was denying it in court because she was frightened of what would happen to her. "You are too frightened now to admit it. That is the truth, isn't it?" he asked. The girl replied: "No".

The girl, who has lived in care virtually all her life, has denied murder and manslaughter.

Carol, of Thorplands, Northampton, died from internal bleeding after being stabbed in Lings Wood Park.

## Accidents 'avoidable'

Two horrifying accidents in which one child died and a second was seriously injured could have been avoided if the joint proprietor of a fantasy theme park on the Isle of Wight had heeded advice from Health and Safety Executive inspectors, a court was told yesterday.

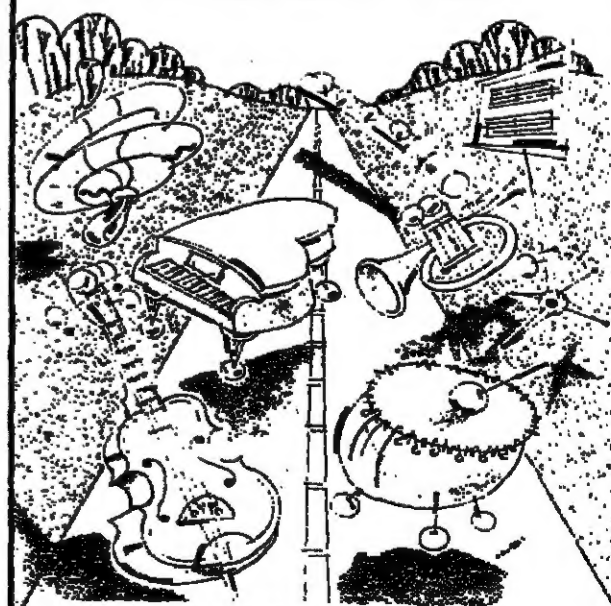
Colin Holland, aged two, of Silverstone, Northamptonshire, died from head injuries six days after the accident in June last year. Carly Fielder, aged six, of Chiswick, London, was able to leave hospital after three days, the island's crown court at Newport was told. Mr

Richard Tyson, for the prosecution, said two inspectors visited Blackgang Chine Fantasy Theme Park the November before the incidents. They pointed out the need for extra safety precautions on certain walkways.

Francis Debell, managing partner of the theme park, denies failing to fence adequately the elevated walkways and of failing to submit official accident report forms within seven days.

He pleads guilty to failing to notify the Health and Safety Executive as soon as possible. The hearing continues.

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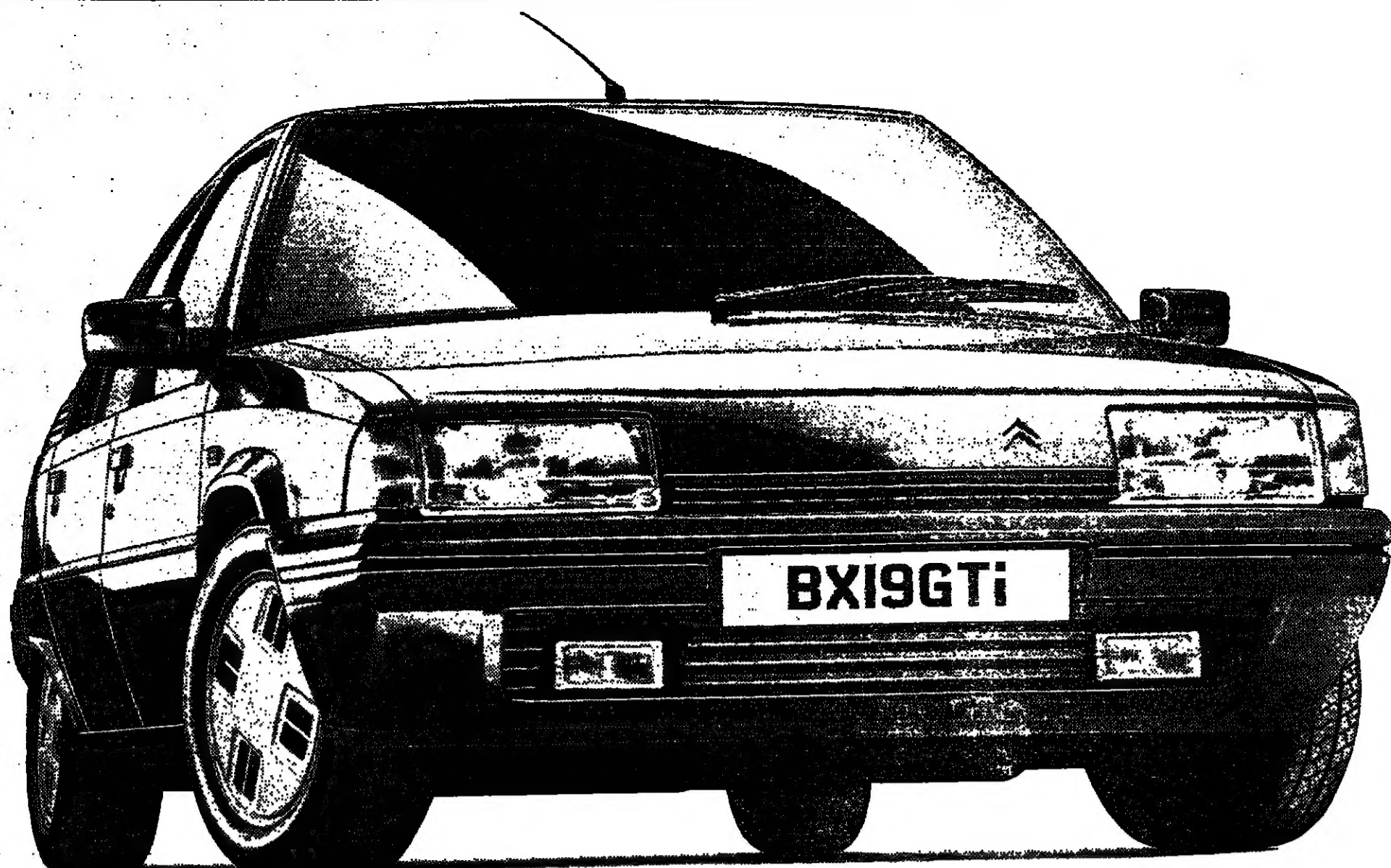
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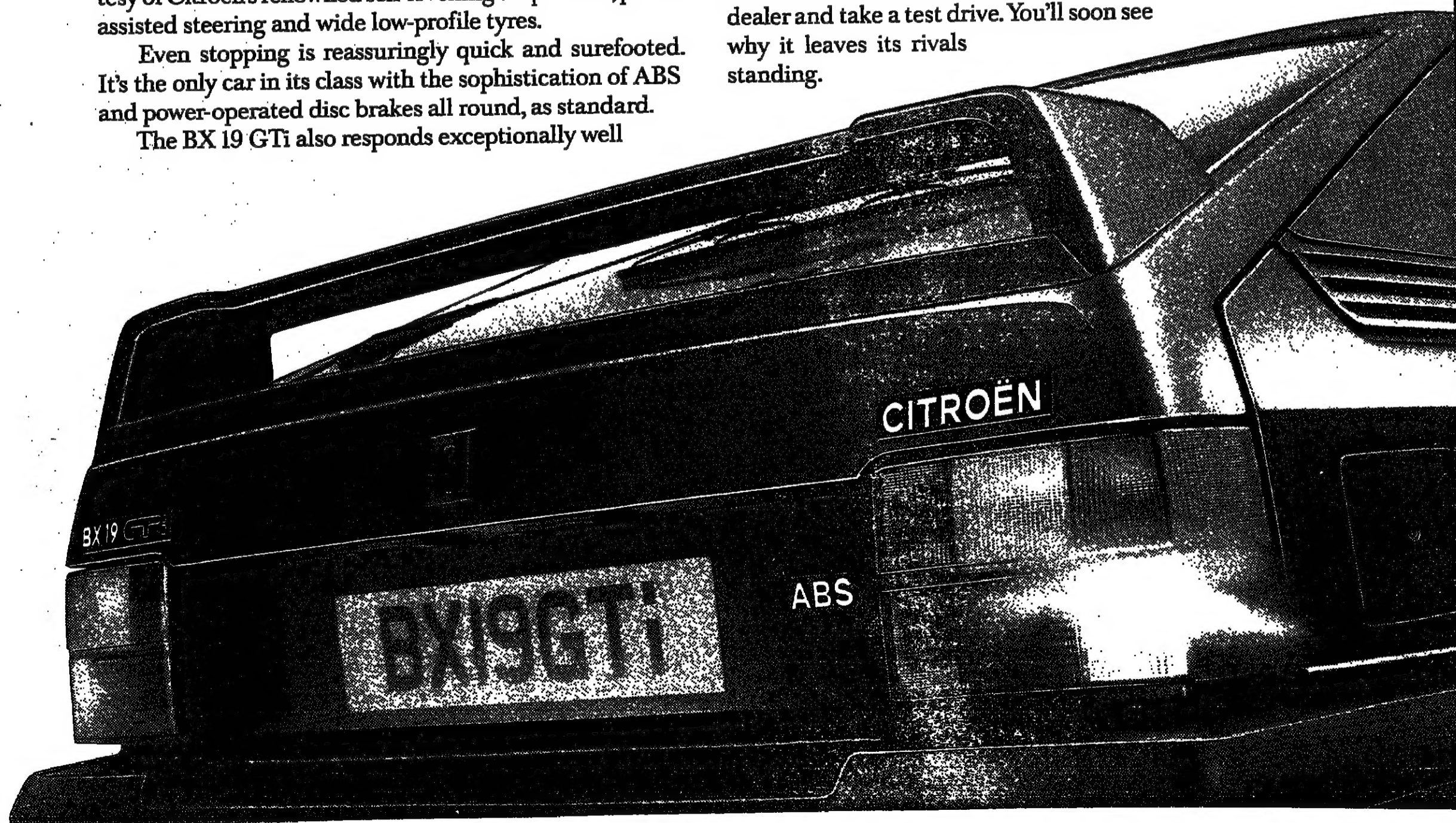
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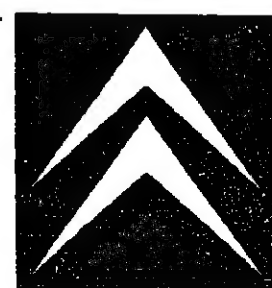
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# Tour holidaymakers may find it easier to win compensation

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

A better deal for package holidaymakers is in sight — under European-wide measures expected to become law in 1991 — giving legal protection when holidays go wrong.

All Europeans travelling on the Continent would be entitled to compensation under the proposals if they became the victims of bogus advertising, last-minute changes to bookings and surcharges.

Tour operators are expected legally to be bound to offer customers a written contract to make it easier to claim compensation if promises are not fulfilled. Brochures would also be required to be "legible, understandable and accurate" with legal protection against sudden rises in the advertised prices.

A House of Lords committee, which investigated the Community's proposals, forecasts that they will usher in a fairer deal for those taking package holidays on the Continent.

However, it says that better legal protection will inevitably lead to higher prices. Its report published today says package holidaymakers now want and are ready to pay for a better service.

The peers' welcome will influence Community ministers in drawing up the new laws, due to come into effect on December 31, 1990. Their report will be debated in the House of Lords later this winter.

Package holidaymakers are far more at risk of exploitation than most consumers because they pay their money in advance and have limited

rights to compensation if their holiday does not live up to expectations, the report states. Their demand for better protection comes after the cut-throat competition among tour operators for the custom of Europe's 150 million travellers a year.

On the whole the peers believe the EEC's plans strike a fair balance between tour operators and holidaymakers.

"The committee takes account of the realities of a market in which tour operators habitually overbook accommodation and airlines overbook flights for commercial reasons, and in which the cheap rates paid by package holidaymakers are at the cost of accepting that flights may be consolidated and hotels changed."

The report backs the introduction of a compulsory written contract for all package holidaymakers with guaranteed compensation if the price goes up by more than 10 per cent or big changes in travel arrangements are made.

However it stops short of supporting proposals for a total ban on surcharges, guaranteed compensation for flight delays and compulsory insurance for all services provided by tour operators.

An EEC-wide law should also be restricted to travel and accommodation deals for holidays abroad. Peers fear that under its present wording tighter controls could apply to "day-trips to the zoo".

The European Commission estimates that one in four holidaymakers would not use the same tour operator again

because of some complaint, while one in 20 felt strongly enough to claim compensation.

The report states: "There is also a strong public policy argument that the package traveller needs special protection because among consumers he is unusually vulnerable."

"He has paid all his money in advance, he cannot easily take his custom elsewhere or replace a spoilt holiday and he has in practice no realistic remedy against airline delays or foreign hotel owners."

Both peers and the EEC agree that holiday brochures should be bound legally to fulfil their promises.

The Advertising Standards Authority gave details of cases where people had not found the "magic and romance" promised in brochures.

For instance, a holiday in Norway talked of "the land of the midnight sun". The authority said: "Unfortunately the trip being advertised was timed for late September, when the midnight sun has ended — and indeed the advertiser conceded that even in midsummer the midnight sun was probably not visible at the particular town in Norway he was advertising."

In other cases, hotels had not provided the promised services, beaches had turned out to be further away and consisted of "builder's rubble" rather than golden sands.

House of Lords select committee on European Communities: 20th report Package Travel (Stationery Office, £11.30).

## The transforming art of becoming an ugly sister



Hugh Rowberry, aged nine, being transformed yesterday into one of Cinderella's ugly sisters as part of the Royal Ballet's educational project to involve children in its forthcoming production. Hugh, from St Mary of the Angels Primary School, Bayswater, west London, is playing one of the ugly sisters in his school's production of *Cinderella* on December



15, which coincides with the Royal Ballet's version of Sir Frederick Ashton's ballet. It took Mr Ron Freeman, the Royal Opera House's wig master and make-up artist, an hour to apply the false nose, eyebrows, face paint and wig. Children from the four schools taking part in the project learn about all aspects of ballet from dance to hat-making.



### Newspaper boy murder appeal

## Move to win parole denied

A witness who gave evidence nine years ago against the three accused killers of Carl Bridgewater, a newspaper delivery boy aged 13, admitted in the Court of Appeal yesterday that he had served numerous jail terms for deception.

But Mervyn Ritter, aged 50, denied that he was desperate to get parole at the time he claimed to hear two of the accused implicate themselves in the 1978 shotgun killing.

Ritter, who is serving a three-and-a-half year sentence in Pentonville Prison, London, for theft and deception, was giving evidence before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Leonard and Mr Justice Potts on the sixth day of

the appeal into the case ordered by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

At Stafford Crown Court in 1979, Mr Justice Drake sentenced the three for Carl's murder in September 1978 and aggravated burglary at Yew Tree Farm, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

James Robinson, aged 54, of Wolston Croft, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, and Vincent Hickey, aged 34, of Badger's Close, Redditch, were sentenced to life with a recommendation that they serve a minimum of 25 years.

Vincent Hickey's cousin, Michael Hickey, then aged 17, was ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure but was later transferred to a

special hospital in Liverpool. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy, aged 51, was convicted of Carl's manslaughter, but died in prison in 1981.

At the time Ritter implicated Robinson and one of the Hickeys in the killing he was serving a five-and-a-half year sentence.

In reply to Mr Jeremy Roberts QC, counsel for the crown, Ritter said he was serving his sentence on D3 security landing in Winslow Green prison, Birmingham, when he heard "confessions" by the two men.

He admitted he was given 66 days special remission of his sentence after the trial and was released in May 1980. The hearing continues.

## Airline threat to quit Gatwick for Continent

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

One of the world's fastest growing airlines is so frustrated with conditions at Gatwick that it is drawing up plans to develop its main European base at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport instead.

Wardair of Canada is spending more than \$1 billion building a fleet of 56 jets and had planned to make Gatwick the link airport from which passengers from Canada could catch flights into the Continent, Africa and the Far East.

"But although we have tried for almost a year to persuade the BAA to allow us to improve the services to our passengers through our own lounge and a better stand, we have been unable to do so", the airline said.

Now Wardair is negotiating with Schiphol which, it says, has been far more helpful.

At Gatwick, Wardair said it was told that, as a foreign carrier, it was not allowed to recruit its own staff to handle passengers, could not have its own lounge and had to park aircraft on a remote site.

Now plans to fly twice a day into Amsterdam from next April could be extended and flights originally planned for Gatwick will by-pass Britain and go to Amsterdam instead.

"We will continue to use Gatwick but we are reviewing how many of our 23 flights a week will remain there."

The airline began flying cut-price charter passengers between Britain and Canada in 1962.

## Sporting sea anglers angry over cod ban in Channel

By Alan Hamilton

Fishermen who dangle their lines for cod off the south coast are incensed that they have been caught in the net of a fishing ban aimed at conserving stocks from rapacious commercial trawlers.

Ministry of Agriculture inspectors have been lying in wait on the quayside at Brighton Marina and at Langstone, near Portsmouth, in

recent days checking the catches of sea anglers to ensure that illicit cod is not among them. So far no prosecutions have resulted.

The ministry imposed the cod ban along the coast earlier this year after British commercial fishermen had caught most of their annual European Community quota of 1,800 tons of Channel cod within three months. The ban was lifted for two weeks in October to allow the rest of

the quota to be caught, but since the beginning of this month cod fishing has again been illegal from Cornwall to Sussex.

Sports fishermen have written to the ministry arguing that their share of the catch is so insignificant that they should be exempted from the ban. They are encouraged by recent scientific evidence, which came to light only after the fishing ban was imposed in March, that Channel cod

stocks are at their highest for at least 15 years. The EEC has granted Britain an extra 150 tons of cod quota in the Channel this year because of the healthy stocks, and the ban is about to be lifted briefly.

Mr Peter Blacklock, secretary of the National Federation of Charter Skippers, representing 500 boatmen who make their living taking anglers out to sea, said: "This ban is an interference with civil liberties. The

Tory government is supposed to be in favour of small businesses.

"The whole sporting catch from the Channel in a year is less than 20 tons, the equivalent of one day's fishing by one commercial boat."

The ban had seriously affected the boat charter business, Mr Blacklock said.

"The purpose of this ban may be conservation, but we can't attach a nose to our hooks saying 'No cod'."

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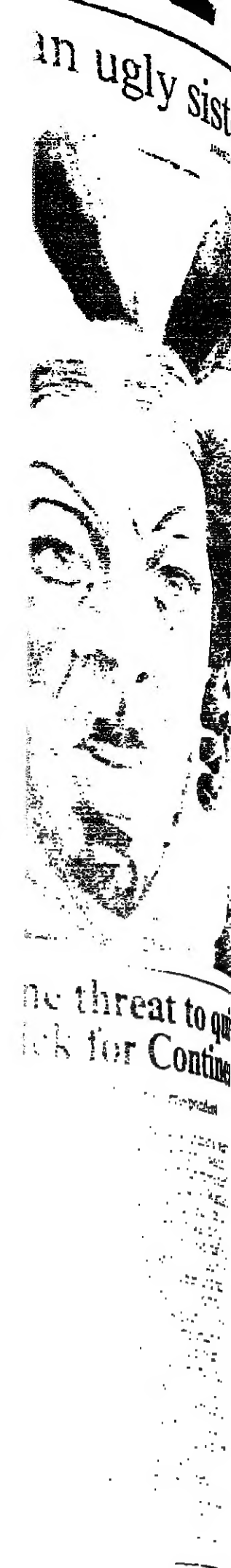
This year it will spend nearly £200m in the UK component market alone.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

## Freed activist in ANC peace bid

Johannesburg — The veteran black South African politician, Mr Zephania Mothopeng, the 75-year-old president of the banned Pan Africanist Congress, yesterday offered a tentative olive branch to the other main black nationalist organization, the outlawed African National Congress (Michael Hornsby writes). The rivalry between the PAC and the ANC is one of the most notorious divisions in black politics.

Speaking at a press conference at a church in Soweto, Mr Mothopeng, who was released from jail last Saturday after serving nine years of a 15-year term for terrorism, appealed for unity and called on the government to free the ANC leader, "Comrade Nelson Mandela", from prison. His release was clearly motivated mainly by his poor health. Doctors say he has cancer of the thymus gland.

"My first task, which I am going to do everything in my powers to discharge, is to unite the African people. I have been committed to that unity and am going to devote all my time and effort in seeing to it that the task is fulfilled," Mr Mothopeng declared.

## Shooting ultimatum

Sydney — Australia has issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the Yugoslavs to surrender a gunman who allegedly shot a schoolboy outside the Yugoslav Consulate here (Christopher Morris writes). On a day of angry diplomatic exchanges the Yugoslavs first agreed, then refused, to allow police to enter the building where he was hiding.

The schoolboy, Josef Tokic, aged 15, is in intensive care with a bullet lodged near his spine. He was reportedly shot by a Yugoslav security guard at the consulate who was trying to disperse 1,500 Croats staging a demonstration.

## Fraud case advances

Madrid — Spanish police yesterday identified the suspect arrested in Marbella on Friday in connection with a multimillion-pound investment fraud as an American, and Swiss detectives arrived on the Costa del Sol, as detectives began unravelling the international criminal organization which may have cheated thousands of Britons (Harry Debelius writes). They sorted through half a tonne of computer print-outs found at the Marbella office for evidence to support suspicions that the Costa "boiler room" was linked to operations in Switzerland, France and Germany.

## Genscher in Iran

Tehran (Reuter) — Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, starting talks in Tehran, voiced concern yesterday about alleged human rights abuses in Iran and the ordeal of 18 Westerners believed held hostage in Lebanon. Herr Genscher specifically mentioned Terry Anderson, an American journalist kidnapped by pro-Iranian Shia Muslim guerrillas in March 1985. "The fate of the hostages in Lebanon was only brought up briefly today, but the matter will be addressed more extensively in further talks on Tuesday," an official in the German party said.

## Resettling Romania

Bucharest (Reuter) — President Ceausescu of Romania has reaffirmed his plan to destroy thousands of villages and resettle inhabitants in new towns. Speaking yesterday at the start of a three-day Communist Party Central Committee meeting, Mr Ceausescu said he hoped to create about 550 new towns. Some villages had already been transformed.

His agricultural programme has come in for international criticism, particularly from Hungary, which believes it is aimed at eradicating the culture of the Hungarian minority in Romania.

## The baby that is over 30,000 years old



Two Soviet scientists in Leningrad measuring a baby mammoth found recently in the Yamal peninsula in western Siberia.

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Mammoths and dinosaurs tend to be linked as contemporary forms of extinct prehistoric creatures. That they were separated by millions of years accounts for the fact that remarkably well-preserved remains of the far younger mammoth, which is little more than 30,000 years old, including a new find of a baby pictured here, are discovered periodically in the permafrost in Siberia.

Like other large mammals, such as the woolly rhinoceros and the European grizzly bear, the mammoths were victims of the last great ice age of the Quaternary period, between 40,000 and 30,000 years ago. The main organs of the deep-frozen animals have decayed but the tougher tissues remain from which molecular biologists hope to extract genetic material for laboratory experiments. The large mammals succumbed not directly to the cold of climatic change but to a loss of food supplies, as the pattern of flora and fauna that was broadly similar across Eurasia and "Beringia" in North America, was obliterated by the ice sheet.

## Polish 'round table' removed

Warsaw (Reuter) — Poland's Communist rulers have quietly taken away the round table specially built for talks with Solidarity, signalling the end of a brief but stormy flirtation with the banned union.

The massive oak table is no longer in the Jablonna Palace, near Warsaw, where it was set up in October, and witnesses said it was taken away on November 7.

Its unannounced removal marked the end of a three-month drive by the Government towards what would have been an historic deal with the opposition on economic and political reforms. The move also dashed prospects of an immediate national reconciliation and raised serious questions about the future.

Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the anti-Solidarity politician who became Prime Minister in September, believes he can solve Poland's problems by other means.

Instead of a round table, he plans a "social pact" next year with the Communist-led unions set up in 1982 after Solidarity was outlawed.

The aim of the pact is to reassure workers and win acceptance for reforms which have already pushed inflation to 60 per cent this year.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, called the proposed pact with the communist unions a "mutual admiration society" that could resolve nothing.

Other Polish observers, including the Roman Catholic bishops, fear Mr Rakowski may be on a collision course with Polish society. "Most of the bishops think Rakowski is not a man of national accord," a source close to them said.

"Some hope he may perhaps move Poland out of economic stagnation, but others who know him don't expect much. If you look coldly at what he has done, you can see he has had no success so far," the source added.

Senior bishops were also worried that some recent anti-Government demonstrations had been unusually aggressive for Poland.

"Some bishops feel the social atmosphere in Poland is beginning to boil," the source said.

## Envoys on alert after visa decision

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Washington's decision to bar Mr Yassir Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, from the United Nations has provoked a wave of anti-American fury throughout the Arab world which Western sources fear could swiftly degenerate into a new campaign of terrorist attacks against United States targets both in the region and in Western Europe.

The sources said that instructions had already been issued to American diplomats and other embassy staff to be on maximum alert against possible revenge attacks by extremists.

Unlike previous upsurges of hostility against the US, notably that which followed the bombing of Libya in April, 1986, the current outbreak of anti-American sentiment appears to have united moderate and radical Arabs and to have affected even ordinary members of the public who are not usually involved in politics or propaganda.

Mr Kamel Abu Jaber, a Jordanian professor of political science, said that as a result of Washington's decision, which was "terribly unwise politically and legally questionable", the threat would no longer come from veteran PLO left-wingers like Mr George

Habash and Mr Nayef Hawatmeh, leaders respectively of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

"The peace process lasted from 1967 until 1988 and it died at the hands of George Shultz (the US Secretary of State)," he said. "When this reaches the man in the street, the reaction from Communists, Muslim fundamentalists, or whoever, will make the radicalism of Habash pale by comparison."

In some Arab countries, American ambassadors were summoned to hear protests against what a Kuwaiti newspaper yesterday termed a "humiliation" for the entire Arab world.

A similar description was used by Bahrain's *Akhbar Al Khali* newspaper, without exception, are asked today to announce their intention to conduct a full review of ties with the US at every level — military, economic and political.

One US resident in Egypt explained: "You can feel the anger with everyone you talk to, even if they are too polite to state it in so many words. I think that the real crunch will come

if the Arabs see that Bush is going to toe exactly the same line."

Meanwhile, Mr Arafat, in his first public reaction to the visa ban, expressed confidence that, thanks to widespread international backing, the campaign to have this week's UN General Assembly debate on Palestine moved to either Geneva or Vienna would face no problems.

In Baghdad, he described the US decision as "strange and illegal" and said that Mr Shultz had shown his open alliance with Israel and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, its Prime Minister.

"The whole world now understands the reason why the cause of peace in the Middle East cannot advance one step due to the attitude of the American Administration," he said.

But Mr Arafat claimed the ban had not surprised him. "Shultz's shuttle tours to the Middle East were aimed at nothing but to express Shamir's views... what was behind the scenes was probably more horrid," he said.

The strengthening of Arab unity as a result of the US move was underlined yesterday when President Saddam Hussein made a surprise visit to Cairo, his first since he became Iraq's leader in 1979.

After talks at which the denial of Mr

Arafat's visa featured prominently, Egypt's President Mubarak claimed that he would give Washington a chance to lift the ban before throwing his weight behind Arab moves to shift the General Assembly session to a venue outside the US.

Jordan's official Petra news agency had earlier reported that Mr Mubarak and King Husain of Jordan had agreed to spearhead the campaign to have the debate switched to Geneva.

"Most Arabs are thinking of this," explained President Mubarak, who sent a personal telegram to President Reagan calling on him to allow the PLO leader to make his speech. "I am waiting for the US to reconsider because they have so many friends in the area and they should reconsider the question."

The Egyptian press had earlier reported that Mr Mubarak and King Husain had agreed by telephone jointly to head the campaign for the move of the General Assembly session from New York to Geneva.

Official Egyptian sources said yesterday that the Jordanian monarch was expected in Cairo later this week to continue the series of Arab mini-summits.

Leading article, page 17

Leyland DAF has the best and widest range of vans and trucks on the British market. Vans and trucks to meet all the operators' requirements from 2.8 tonne vans to 35 tonne trucks.

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# Leyland DAF



# Threat of Senate impasse forces Bush to mend fences with Dole



Senator Dole: His career is believed to have peaked.

From Michael Binyon  
Washington

In a well publicized attempt to bury an ancient hatchet, President-elect George Bush yesterday had lunch at his White House office with Senator Robert Dole, the Republican Senate minority leader and his former bitter rival for the Republican nomination.

The lingering bad relations between the two men threaten to torpedo Mr Bush's efforts to work with Congress on the deficit and other programmes.

Without the firm backing of the Republican party leadership in the Senate, Mr Bush will be unable to seek an accommodation with the

Democrats. The dislike of the two men for each other is palpable and politically embarrassing.

It led in February to a blazing row on the Senate floor on the eve of the Iowa caucus, when Mr Dole demanded an apology from Mr Bush over remarks the Bush campaign had made about his "cronyism" and Mrs Elizabeth Dole's finances.

During the New Hampshire primary, Mr Dole sharply attacked Mr Bush as a man who had no visible influence on Reagan Administration policy. But he was stung by Bush television advertisements suggesting Mr Dole — "Senator Sordid" — might raise taxes, and in a live television

confrontation on the night of Mr Bush's primary victory told him angrily: "Stop lying about my record."

Mr Dole later pledged support for the Bush candidacy, but was snubbed in his attempt to become the vice-presidential running mate, and attacked the Bush selection procedure as "demeaning." On election night, he again criticized Mr Bush for not doing enough to help congressional candidates, indirectly blaming him for Republican losses in the Senate that weakened Mr Dole's position as minority leader.

Mr Dole has made no secret of the bad blood between them. During a trip to the Far East with a

congressional delegation earlier this month, he remarked: "I heard about the stories suggesting that George Bush's real enemy was Bob Dole, not Mikhail Gorbachev. I heard about Bush aides saying that Bush has total disdain for Dole, for anyone who knows Dole and for anyone who works for Dole."

Mr Bush has certainly done little until now to soothe Mr Dole's wounded vanity, in which class prejudice has played a large part. The 65-year-old Senator from Kansas has scorned the 64-year-old Vice-President as a rich upper-class son of a senator who was helped by money and friends in his career of appointed offices, while Mr Dole had to overcome poverty and a

severe war injury to win a series of elections.

Mr Bush has been hurt by Mr Dole's caustic wit, often at his expense. Republicans say he is now exacting his revenge by publicly shunning the Doles and not even considering Mrs Dole, a former Secretary of Transport, for any post in the Bush Administration, although he is still looking for qualified women.

Senator Dole has probably now seen his political career peak. Fellow Republicans say there is now a "hollowness" in him.

He would find it particularly galling to see Vice-President Dan Quayle, the young former junior senator from Indiana, presiding

over the Senate. Much of the impetus for a reconciliation has come from Mr Sumnu, the designated White House Chief of Staff, and former Governor of New Hampshire who was the architect of Mr Bush's crucial victory there. Mr Sumnu praised Mr Dole recently as a "successful, mature politician," and said he was looking forward to working with him.

Although Mr Bush and Mr Dole will never be firm friends, their political interests compel them to work out an effective partnership.

Mr Dole said before the lunch he did not see any problem. But he has made it clear he will only help Mr Bush if he is treated with respect.

## Russians finalize changes in Constitution and polls

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The 300-member Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party held a full meeting, or plenum, yesterday to finalize the wording of controversial changes in the country's Constitution and a new election law. Both documents will be passed into law today at a session of the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet.

The laws have caused an unprecedented wave of debate and unrest, particularly in the smaller Soviet republics, which fear they will diminish their already slender share of sovereignty over their own affairs.

Details of President Gorbachev's speech to the closed plenum were not immediately available, but he was expected to restate his opposition to the kind of "extreme" moves taken by the tiny Baltic republic of Estonia, which tried to pre-empt the new laws by passing its own constitutional amendments and giving itself the right of veto over laws passed in Moscow.

It was also expected that the new Estonian party leader, Mr Vaino Valjas — who, ironically, was chosen for the job by Mr Gorbachev — would stick to his guns, defending the

position supported overwhelmingly by the Estonian public and by their deputies in the republic's parliament.

Mr Valjas said on Sunday night that he would not give up the drive for sovereignty for the republic. At a session of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on Saturday the Estonian President, Mr Arnold Ruutel, also defended the republic's bid for sovereignty.

Mr Gorbachev, who spoke approvingly of the open debate aroused by the laws, which were published in draft form a month ago, nonetheless described the Estonian claims as "erroneous and invalid."

The dispute revolves around differing interpretations of sovereignty and "regional self-management" in the economy. The Kremlin has given the go-ahead for regions to have much greater economic autonomy, but the Estonians have gone further in two ways.

First, they have demanded exclusive republican control over everything — including natural resources which the Soviet Constitution claims to be common Soviet property — and also "all-union" industries run wholly or partly by Moscow-based ministries.

Second, they have interpreted the concept of sovereignty much more widely than the Kremlin.

The Presidium on Saturday adopted a decree which declared as unconstitutional an Estonian declaration of sovereignty.

The declaration, adopted by the republican parliament on November 16, stated that Estonian laws should take precedence over all union laws, and that Soviet laws would take effect in the republic only after approval by the Estonian parliament.

Mr Gorbachev appears to support the present constitutional situation, in which Soviet laws are automatically valid throughout the union. This effectively reduces the "sovereignty" of the republics to nil.

But Mr Gorbachev, in his speech to the Presidium, published in yesterday's newspapers, described for the first time the kind of economic division of labour which he envisages between the republics and the centre.

He said that major industries — the railways, air transport, energy, oil and gas, steelmaking and machine-building — would have to remain under central control.

Dividing such industries up would be, he said, "not only economically undesirable but also impracticable."

On the other hand, light industry and the food-producing sector, plus local transport and trade, the health service, schools and public catering, could, he said, be run by republics — or even by smaller provinces or regions.

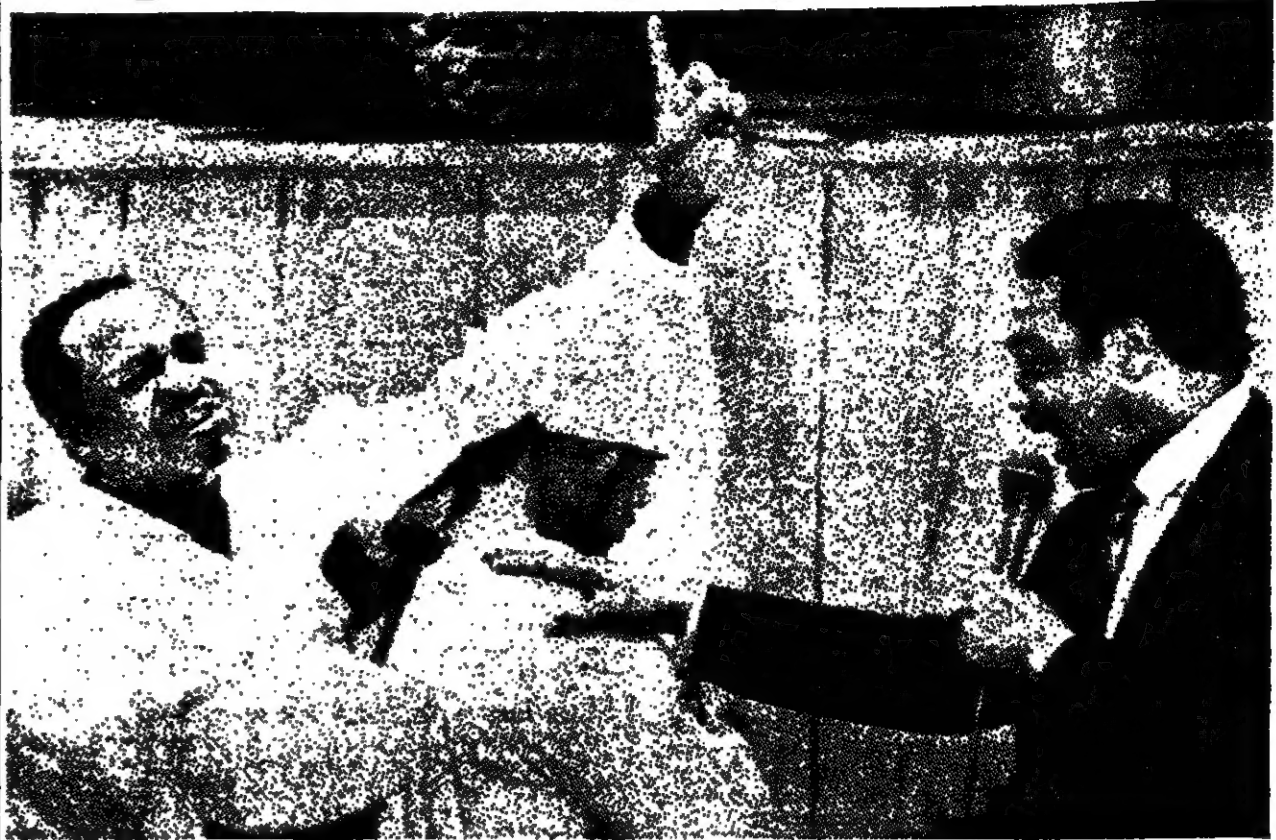
Such a compromise solution will certainly leave many Estonian economists and ordinary people — and also the new popular front organization — feeling disappointed.

Their long-term aim is for complete economic autonomy, and for "trade" (rather than distribution) between the various regions of the Soviet Union.

Armenian attack: Azerbaijanis in Kirovabad ransacked the homes of Armenians, burned their belongings and raped at least two women, two Armenians who fled from the city said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The refugees, an Armenian man and his Jewish wife, flew to Moscow at the weekend with their three children and five other people after being taken under armed escort to Kirovabad airport. Commentary, page 16

## Baptism for heavyweight champion



Mike Tyson, the world heavyweight boxing champion, being prepared for baptism by immersion at the Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, as the Rev Jesse Jackson, right, and the Rev Henry J Payden, offer prayers for him.

## Delors urges EEC summit harmony

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

M. Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, yesterday appealed to European Community member states at this week's summit meeting in Rhodes to avoid "dogmatic challenges" to the internal market programme.

In a pre-summit statement outlining the agenda for the two-day European Council beginning on Friday, M. Delors acknowledged that any attempt to obstruct integration might embolden the Community in a disruptive crisis.

His statement was in response to a question about his claim on the BBC's *Newsnight* programme last night that the Community could be in a "pre-crisis situation".

But he was optimistic that a serious clash of opinion could

be avoided if member states heeded his advice, adhered to the agenda, and took stock of the progress made towards the construction of Europe.

"We have made a great deal of headway. The house is in a state of good order. The Community is on the move. The summit should go well unless people do not follow my advice, and stake up peoples' fears," M. Delors said.

He said that the European Council, which will be chaired by Greece, faced three essential tasks: a review of the Commission's mid-term report on progress towards meeting the 1992 deadline, the identification of areas of greatest priority — including fiscal approximation and the abolition of internal frontiers — and

outlining new guidelines for future Community initiatives.

He added that the heads of government were expected to discuss the role of the Community in the world, and were likely to issue a statement concerning the "unfettered" criticism that the Community is in the process of building a Fortress Europe.

The first day of the summit is expected to be devoted to the Commission's review of progress towards 1992, which shows that the Community is well ahead of target on the abolition of technical barriers to trade, but has fallen seriously behind on the abolition of physical and fiscal barriers.

The Commission is also likely to press the heads of state to give additional political impetus to its controversial proposal to bring into line the widely differing indirect taxation regimes of member countries, exacerbated by the reluctance of some countries, principally Britain, to accept the need for fiscal approximation.

On Friday evening, during traditional "fireside talks", the member states are expected to discuss international developments, particularly the urgency of reducing America's budget and trade deficits, the prospects for reform of the Soviet economy and improved East-West relations.

Members will also discuss a further response to the Palestinian declaration of independence.

Former hand, page 16

## American-Soviet grain pact extended

Moscow (Reuters) — The United States and Soviet Union signed an agreement yesterday extending a pact on US grain exports for the next two years.

The US side said Soviet demands on better access for Soviet ships to American ports and other issues had made it impossible to clinch a new, longer-term accord. A compromise deal committing the Soviet Union to continue to buy a minimum of nine million tonnes of grain and soy beans annually from America's farmers was reached after eight difficult months of negotiations.

Originally, the biggest exporter and biggest importer of grain had set out to negotiate a new pact to replace one which lapsed in September. But the US Deputy

Trade Representative, Mr Alan Holmer, said an accord was delayed because the Soviet Union wanted to expand the deal to include other bilateral trade and shipping issues. In the end, he said, they agreed simply to sign a protocol extending the grain trade pact, which expires in December, until December 31, 1990.

The chief Soviet negotiator, Mr Yuri Chumakov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, called the result a compromise and expressed less than total satisfaction with the outcome.

"Our approach to a new agreement is that we envisage it playing a greater role between the United States and the Soviet Union," Mr Chumakov told reporters. "We failed to reach agreement on the

content of a new agreement. That's why the signing of this protocol is a great compromise between the two sides."

PARIS: The Soviet Union and France have signed a \$280 million (£155 million) grain deal under which Moscow will import two million tonnes of French cereals, the French trade house, Intergrain, said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The Intergrain chairman, M. Michel Daumeng, said the cereals would be delivered in the first quarter of 1989 at prices similar to the \$139 per tonne paid for a delivery agreed in September. The deal was concluded in Moscow after a visit there at the weekend by President Mitterrand.



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## Eritrea's struggle for independence

# Cocktail of socialist theory and practicality puts the rebels ahead

From Andrew Backhouse, Asmara, Eritrea

As any military strategist would tell you, an army needs more than weapons to fight with. It needs something to put on its feet. Here in Asmara there is a workshop with a moulding machine that produces the black plastic sandals that are the nearest thing the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has to a uniform.

As any traditional military strategist could not tell you, an army nearly one third of whose fighters are women will have other needs. There is also a workshop with the capacity to produce 10,000 sanitary towels an hour.

But in neither case will the EPLF tell you how many are produced. Concealment not just of the number of their fighters but of all their installations has become second nature for the EPLF, the movement that now dominates the Eritreans' 27-year-old struggle for independence from Ethiopia.

Asmara, a settlement spread over a complex of rocky valleys in northern Eritrea, is unrecognisable from the air during the day. Everything is hidden in bunkers or under trees to protect it from the Ethiopian Air Force, which tried to bomb it four times in the two weeks we were in Eritrea, but always hit the wrong valleys with napalm and cluster bombs.

From dusk until midnight the generators come on and Asmara becomes a hive of activity. There is a school for 4,000 students, and a hospital for 1,000 patients spread along four miles of a tortuous valley, with operating theatres, X-ray departments and a unit that can repair the most disfiguring of war wounds.

At one end of the hospital valley there is a pharmaceutical unit with sophisticated machines and sterile laboratories in old containers that produce tablets, capsules

and intravenous solutions accounting for 40 per cent of the requirements for EPLF-controlled areas. Elsewhere in Asmara and throughout the base areas there are workshops that can repair anything from a captured tank to a wrist watch and a selection of rudimentary services to connect them. There is a telephone service, a postal service run on motorbikes, and a bus service.

In all but name the Eritrean state already exists for the 1.3 million people who live in areas openly controlled by the EPLF.

The road network carved through the mountains of northern Eritrea is perhaps the EPLF's most impressive achievement, tying all the base areas and the front lines together, but the Front is reluctant to discuss the political system that underpins all

## In many ways the EPLF is more socialist than the Ethiopian Government

this effort. All EPLF members, from the general secretary to the lowliest fighter or workshop assistant, are unpaid volunteers.

Food, clothes, medical treatment and other services are distributed without any money changing hands. When one of them described this as "to each according to his needs" he was apparently unaware he was quoting Marx. In many ways the EPLF is much more socialist than the Soviet-backed Ethiopian Government.

From top to bottom, however, members of the movement deny it is socialist, despite the EPLF's National Democratic Programme

(NDP), which specifies the nationalization of land, big business, natural resources, banking and insurance, and calls for the regulation of private business in a way that mimics the worst failures of experiments in African socialism in recent decades.

The denial of socialism is bizarre, given the movement's organization, with a politburo and central committees.

The question a visitor to Eritrea is most often asked is "What do you think of our revolution?" not "What do you think of our nationalist struggle?"

The slogan chanted by new recruits after each drill movement or field stripping of an AK47 is "Awet ne hifash" ("Victory to the masses").

Yet a central committee member, Mr Ahmed Baduri, said: "We sincerely believe in a multi-party state." The right of "nationalist parties" to contest seats in a post-independence People's Assembly is enshrined in the NDP, even though the rest of the programme apparently predetermines what they could decide.

The emergence of the EPLF as the dominant nationalist movement in the 1970s, when it fought a civil war against the original Eritrean Liberation Front and other factions and then proceeded to absorb or eliminate its rivals, does not argue for a tolerance of differing viewpoints.

But the EPLF's current policies could be as much a reflection of its isolation — in which socialism has become such a norm that it is no longer considered as such — as of an attempt to court support from the West, even if its need for external support is great.

Though the EPLF has captured large quantities of Soviet-supplied weapons and material from the Ethiopians, it is clear the fuel and ammunition it imports through Sudan require considerably more finance than it admits to receiving. Support from the Arab world largely dried up in the late 1970s, when the emergence of the radical EPLF as the dominant group made it clear that pan-Arabist elements in Eritrea were in a

## In all but name the Eritrean state already exists for the 1.3 million people in EPLF area

minority. The sources of current assistance are unknown.

But it is a reasonable assumption that they are assured by declarations of support for multi-party systems and mixed economies, even if the EPLF apparently retains the guardianship of the definition of "nationalist parties".

There are none apart from the EPLF at the moment, but, according to Mr Baduri, they would have to support the "aspirations of the people" and "social justice" in Eritrea.

The austere, self-reliant philosophy that has been so successful in the war against the Ethiopians, and allows old ammunition boxes to be used as beehives — "from strength comes forth sweetness" — will not necessarily transfer to the modern nation state that is the Eritreans' goal.

Even their friends concede that the selfless, cheerful idealism that characterizes the EPLF could easily be transformed into the sort of corrupt, self-serving bureaucracy all too common in Africa.



## Iraqi leader unveils reforms permitting rival parties to exist

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

In a move to liberalize one of the Middle East's most repressive regimes, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has unveiled a programme of political reforms, including one allowing political parties in opposition to his Baath Socialist Party, which has ruled virtually unchallenged for more than 30 years.

In a television broadcast, the President, who has for some time had the reputation of being prepared to trample over human rights in his pursuit of power, also announced an amnesty for those convicted of, or wanted for, political offences, but not for "Iranian spies".

The reforms, which follow recent moves to privatize large sectors of Iraq's state-run economy and attract foreign investment, are seen as an attempt by President Saddam to bolster his support at home and to meet expectations aroused by the ending of the eight-year war with Iran.

"He knows that his people want something tangible now that the fighting has stopped," one diplomat explained, adding: "Hardly a family exists that has not had a relative killed, wounded or captured."

The Iraqi leader, who is aged 51 and who became President in 1971, is believed by many observers to be

determined to wrest regional Middle East leadership from his traditional rivals now that the war is over.

He also used his late-night television broadcast on Sunday to maintain that Iraq would not interfere in the internal affairs of other Arab countries. This was seen as aimed mainly at Syria, Iraq's bitterest rival.

President Saddam, who was filmed addressing Arab lawyers, said the Iraqi Baath Party

Baghdad (Reuters) — Iraq said yesterday it was going to complain to the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross about Iran's decision to halt the exchange of sick or wounded Gulf War prisoners, calling the Iranian action "vicious".

had adopted the notion of a multi-party system without reserve. "New parties will be formed in addition to the existing ones in order to play their role in society," he said.

Western experts think the Iraqi leader has been much influenced by the process of perestroika in the Soviet Union, and that he sees the relaxing of central control as a way to reduce discontent.

Both Arab and Western

observers were cautious in their assessment of how far the new reforms would go, particularly on the number of political detainees who would qualify for a pardon and the extent to which the notoriously hard-line security services would relax their grip on dissident opinion.

Because of the nature of the announcement, it was not clear if the Communists and pro-Syrian factions of the Baath party, which came close to being wiped out in earlier purges, or the Kurdish Democratic Party, leading a struggle for autonomy in northern Iraq, would be legalized.

One purpose of the President's moves towards gradually untangling the straight-jacket which has restricted ordinary life in Iraq is believed to be the need to satisfy the Iraqi Shia Muslims, who believe that their community is owed special thanks for a loyal defence of the regime against their fanatical co-religionists in Iran.

Signs of gradual liberalization had emerged before Sunday's announcement, including a "Freedom Wall" at Baghdad University where students can express grievances, and the publication in the state press of letters complaining about high prices or a shortage of college places.

## Syrian crackdown in Beirut

Beirut (Reuters) — The Syrian Army launched a drive yesterday to end five days of fighting in Muslim west Beirut, raiding houses, seizing weapons and arresting 300 feuding militiamen.

About 600 soldiers, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns, took part in the search for fighters of the Syrian-backed Amal and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God).

A Syrian officer said his troops also confiscated arms in raids on houses and hide-outs in the areas of Musaitbeh, Al-Nweiri, Hay al-Lija, Bourj Abu Haider and Khandak al-

Ghamik. Scores of soldiers took up combat positions on street corners as others searched buildings. Truckloads of soldiers stood by.

The Syrian military command renewed orders to its men to shoot gunmen on sight following the collapse of six truces since fighting between the rival Shia Muslim militias erupted on Thursday.

"If you see anyone holding a gun, spray him immediately. Kill him on the spot. We're not playing around here," said an officer as he ordered his unit to search a seven-storey building in Bourj Abu Haider. The crackdown followed a clash between Hezbollah and

Amal in the Houd al-Wilaya area of west Beirut in defiance of an earlier Syrian "shoot on sight" warning.

Police said at least 29 people had been killed and 72 wounded in the battles since Thursday in west Beirut and the Shia southern suburbs.

In the poverty-stricken suburbs, home for half a million people, fighting tapered off to sporadic exchanges of machine-gun fire. Syrian troops did not move into the suburbs in force.

Hezbollah and Amal are vying for control of Shia areas but until Thursday's clashes, the struggle had been relatively subdued.

## Women enter Israeli religious debate



A former US Congresswoman, Mrs. Bella Abzug, left, speaking at a demonstration in Jerusalem yesterday against efforts by some Israelis to narrow the definition of Jewish origin. The South African MP, Mrs. Helen Suzman, right, also took part.

## Strikes hit West Bank and Gaza

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

All businesses in the occupied territories were closed by a general strike yesterday on the orders of the united leadership of the uprising, which backs the Palestine Liberation Organization.

All shops have been ordered to stay shut again today by Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist resistance group.

The reasons for the two strike calls are different. The PLO wants to support demands for the immediate release of the 5,656 Palestinian prisoners the Israelis say are currently in detention. Of these, 1,590 are being held without trial. Only 377 have been tried and sentenced.

Hamas has called its strike to mark the anniversary of the 1947 UN vote in favour of partitioning Palestine between Jews and Arabs. Although Palestinian sources suggest that Hamas is backed by only around 10 per cent of the population in the territories, few shopkeepers are expected to risk having their premises damaged by defying the strike call.

The strikes come as the first anniversary of the intifada (uprising) approaches on December 9, when Hamas has

already called another strike in advance of its PLO rival, which is also known to be preparing demonstrations.

The strikes come, too, as Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, has reported a decrease in the level of violence following the declaration in Algeria of an independent Palestinian state.

A massive Army clampdown and widespread curfews prevented demonstrations planned then, and Mr. Rabin considers this crackdown has also succeeded in subduing potential violence now.

However, anger at the refusal by the United States to grant a visa to Mr. Yasser

Arafat, the PLO chairman, boiled over in a number of incidents during the weekend and curfews have been imposed on villages and camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

Tension is particularly high in the Gaza Strip, where the intifada began, and all camps were placed under curfew yesterday after a weekend in which local sources said more than two dozen people were wounded and one killed by Israeli gunfire.

Among those injured was the brother of one of the three boys killed in Jabaliya camp during the demonstration last December which sparked off the intifada. Since then,

## Soviet trip raises storm

Jerusalem — Mr. Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, yesterday continued a 48-hour visit to Moscow, ignoring the controversy he sparked off by making the trip without first informing his superior, Mr. Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister (Ian Murray writes).

Mr. Peres said he was astounded when he was told about the visit for the first time

during Sunday's Cabinet meeting. Mr. Tamir will be called in to explain what he was doing when he returns home tomorrow.

He is the most senior Israeli official to visit the Soviet Union since diplomatic relations were broken off after the Six Day War in 1967. He has been seeing members of the Israeli Consular Mission in Moscow.

## Vietnam offer to refugees rejected

Manila — Vietnamese hopes to resolve the problem of the "boat people" have been dashed because the offer of repatriation is being shunned by thousands of refugees in camps around South-East Asia (Humphrey Hawksley writes).

After two meetings this year between Vietnamese and British officials, only about 400 of the 25,000 refugees living in poor conditions in Hong Kong have volunteered to return.

Refugees in a better-equipped camp in Malaysia threatened to riot last month when they heard that a Vietnamese delegation was coming to their island of Pulau Bidong.

## Drugs haul

Ankara (Reuters) — Police found 500lb of heroin worth £7.8 million, the biggest drugs haul in Turkey this year, in a truck which had been driven into a reservoir near the city of Van, near the Iranian frontier.

## Judge booked

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Judge Patrick O'Dea of Hong Kong, who abandoned a robbery trial after admitting reading a book during the case, has resigned.

## Election call

Port Vila (Reuters) — President Sokomanu of Vanuatu called for a general election in the South Pacific island group to stop the "nonsense" of boycotts of by-elections, which he said could cause economic disaster.

## Wall death

Peking (AP) — Miss Collena Wong, aged 34, from New Zealand, has died from injuries received when a Chinese couple set off an explosion on the Great Wall in a lovers' suicide pact.

## More blood

Tokyo (AFP) — Emperor Hirohito received a further blood transfusion and his temperature and pulse rose.

## Jobs to go

Kampala (AFP) — At least 40,000 civil servants in Uganda will lose their jobs in a move to trim the country's 240,000-strong public service.

## Bhutto seeks control of Punjab

From Anstol Ljeven, Islamabad

With the appointment of Miss Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister on Thursday now virtually assured, her Pakistan People's Party is trying to capture the chief ministership in the key province of Punjab, appointing Miss Bhutto's chief lieutenant, Sardar Farooq Leghari, as its candidate for the post.

The rival Islamic Democratic Alliance emerged as the largest party in the Punjab Provincial Assembly in the elections held on November 19. Its leader in Punjab, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is now virtually leader of the alliance throughout the country thanks to the electoral elimination of his main rivals.

The choice between Mr. Sharif and Sardar Leghari will be made by the Provincial Assembly on Friday, the day after President Ishtiaq Khan names whoever is to be his Prime Minister.

The Punjab could be the key to the stability of a future Government in Islamabad.

More than 60 per cent of Pakistan's population live there, and Mr. Sharif has already hinted that, if he is confirmed in it, he will set out

to use his position as chief minister to hinder the work of a national Pakistan People's Party Government under Miss Bhutto.

Some Western observers here have in recent days formed the impression that Miss Bhutto's party is in danger of losing its grip in Punjab.

Party leaders repeatedly have claimed that independent members of the Punjab assembly, and even members of Mr. Sharif's alliance, were coming over to their side, but

Several independent MPs, such as the representatives of the Christian community, have already changed their allegiances at least once during the course of the past week.

One reason for the apparent failure of the People's Party to seize the initiative in Punjab after the elections may be that almost all its local leaders have congregated in Islamabad to be close to Miss Bhutto, the source of all real authority and favour within the party.

Sitting with her at the home of her old family friend, Dr. Maulana Nazki, in Islamabad, they are dependent on one telephone to keep in touch with the rest of the country, and the general impression given to observers is one of some confusion.

Among People's Party leaders, Sardar Leghari has a

reputation for intelligence and scrupulous honesty, although some observers have suggested that these qualities could be drawbacks in the rough and tumble of Pakistani politics.

On the other hand, he has held the tough job of overseeing the internal affairs of the party, and last year carried out an internal reshuffle with considerable firmness.

He comes from a great Punjabi aristocratic family and is, like Miss Bhutto, Oxford educated.

A man of unwavering loyalty to the party, he held the post of Minister for Production under Miss Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

In recent years, Sardar Leghari has held responsibility for formulating the party's economic proposals.

More recently, he has been responsible for recruiting into the party a large number of independent experts in various fields of state policy.

Their advice will be crucial after Miss Bhutto and the party, which has a serious lack of government experience in its upper ranks, come to power.

that comes with the bride are now seen by many poor families as their only chance of acquiring capital items like cars, television sets and property.

Like *suttee*, in which wives commit suicide by jumping on to their husbands' funeral pyres, dowry killings are deeply embedded in the fabric of Hindu society.

A girl baby is still considered by many Indians to be a curse on the family, and to the family of a prospective bridegroom the dowry is often viewed as little more than "compensation" for having to take a young woman into the home.

Once married, it is the height of shame for a woman not to live with her husband. As Mrs. Malhotra's tragic case attests, it is quite common for parents to resist their daughters' pleas to be allowed to return home even if they have reasonable grounds to suspect she may be in danger.

Ms. Madhu Kishwar, the editor of the women's rights magazine, *Manushi*, is not convinced by the figures. She believes many apparent dowry killings have less to do with marriage contracts than with the general violence and abuse directed at women in Indian society.

"Parents of victims tend to mention the dowry as a prime factor because it's a respectable way of making a statement to the police," she said.

"There's often no evidence to prove that it is not due to other forms of harassment — like the colour of the woman's skin or the fact that she couldn't cook," she added.

## Grim toll of dowry deaths rising

From Edward Gorman, Delhi

To judge by the picture on the front pages of two national newspapers, Mrs. Parvash Malhotra, aged 26, was a beautiful young woman until she was attacked, allegedly by her mother-in-law.

Mrs. Malhotra, a literature graduate at Delhi University and a former teacher, was in the kitchen of her marital home in the Delhi suburb of Indira Vihar when her mother-in-law, she claims, doused her with kerosene and set her on fire.

Mrs. Malhotra, who has been married for six months and is two months pregnant, was rushed to hospital, where she was described as having severe burns to almost all her body, and given little chance of survival.

Mrs. Barsa Rani, her mother-in-law, was arrested after the young woman made a statement in hospital.

The reason for this appalling, yet increasingly common, crime was that Mrs. Malhotra's family had apparently failed to provide sufficient dowry after her marriage in April to Rajender, a radio and television repair man.

Her father, Mr. Balbir Gupta, who drives a three-wheel scooter for a living and has six more daughters still not married, had to borrow the money — for him, the enormous sum of 55,000 rupees (about £2,200) to pay for his daughter's wedding and for dowry gifts demanded by his son-in-law's family.

This apparently had not satisfied Mrs. Rani, who allegedly told her daughter-in-law two weeks ago that if she did not

produce 10,000 rupees (about £400) from her parents, and new clothes for her to wear at religious festivals, she would burn her alive.

Mrs. Malhotra warned her parents in letters of the threats, but nothing was done. "We thought she should stay with her husband and be happy there," her father said. "Even she felt that way."

Dowry deaths have shown an alarming increase in India in the past three years, but this year looks set to break last year's record figure of 1,886 reported deaths, more than double the 1986 total.

In Delhi alone last year, there were 111 deaths; the tally so far this year is 90. In each case the figures record murders officially reported to the police. The actual numbers killed are widely considered to be far higher.

"It's taken years to establish itself and it will take years to unravel it again," Miss Elizabeth Vatsyayan, a voluntary worker at a women's collective, said. She has several times dealt with the tragedies and horrific injuries associated with dowry killings.

She says that a 1961 Dowry Prohibition Act and later amendments have had little impact on the practice which, once confined to the northern states, has now spread to the south.

Miss Vatsyayan believes the dramatic increase in the number of killings is directly related to steadily rising prices and a falling standard of living during the past five years. Marriage and the dowry

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November 28 1988

## PARLIAMENT

## MPs attack 'scandal' of Mappa Mundi sale

Serious concern at the prospective sale of the thirteenth-century Mappa Mundi by Hereford Cathedral was voiced at question time by backbench MPs on all sides, one of whom described the move as scandalous.

They were told by Mr Michael Allison, for the Church Commissioners, that public debate and public interest might result in the sale not having to take place.

Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) said that cathedrals were part of the country's aesthetic, spiritual and cultural heritage. It was scandalous that the authorities of Hereford Cathedral were having to consider selling one of their great legacies in order to finance their continued maintenance.

Just as the Government was financing the maintenance of historic churches, more public funds should be made available for the maintenance of cathedrals which did so much to encourage the tourist trade.

Mr Allison: It is a little premature to talk of scandal in the context of the sale of this map. The scandal would arise in my view only if they were forced to sell it.

At present, consideration has been given to selling it. I believe that the public debate and widespread public interest may result in the sale not having to take place.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab) said that an increasing amount of property was sold on a time-share basis. Could not such a principle be applied to the Mappa Mundi?

That would raise the necessary funds and make sure that the map came back to the cathedral while it sorted out its finances.

Mr Allison said that proposal was a helpful and constructive way forward. The cathedral authorities in Hereford had tried to negotiate with the Government and other national bodies and institutions with a view to selling the entire collection of treasures in Hereford Cathedral to the

nation at a preferential price on condition that it remained in situ. Unfortunately, those negotiations have not been successful.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said that that had not been substantiated in all quarters. There did seem to be some dispute as to what precisely was done and when.

Would he take the initiative and call together the various interested parties to try to ensure that the Mappa Mundi remained in situ?

Mr Allison: I will consider whether an initiative by the commission would be helpful and likely to help things forward.

There are many people, privately and in public positions, only too anxious to secure the objective.

The Church Commissioners do already give more than £100,000 a year to Hereford Cathedral.

Later, he said that the care of cathedrals

was a matter for cathedrals themselves. The General Synod had recently given general approval to a draft Care of Cathedrals Measure which made certain provision in that area.

Mr Colin Shephard (Hereford, C) said that the citizens of Hereford and the people of the diocese as a whole were devastated at the prospect for the Mappa Mundi and Hereford Cathedral.

Although the Care of Cathedrals Measure in some way set out a mechanism for at least exercising a veto on moves of the kind contemplated at Hereford, it did not constitute a constructive proposal for solving this kind of problem.

The Church Commissioners had a positive input for establishing a mechanism by which the dean and chapter of cathedrals under threat might realize the maximum value of their assets without actually selling them; that is, "getting into marketing".

Mr Allison said that the Church Commissioners had no direct responsibility for the maintenance of cathedrals.

The controversy over the sale of the Mappa Mundi, which the Archbishop of Canterbury had said would be a severe loss to the nation, would generate very considerable charitable thought or support.

This could possibly come, for example, through City livery companies, the Historic Buildings Commission, the Commission for Historic Manuscripts, the National Memorial Heritage Fund and other similar bodies.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Dem) said that if the synod altered the Care of Cathedrals Measure in January and passed an appropriate measure, it could come to the House and be approved before the prospective sale of the Mappa Mundi by Solihull in June.

"We can act in time if the will is there

and if the Church Commissioners give their backing."

Mr Allison replied that that was true. But Mr Hughes might not underestimate the controversy in the House if MPs started debating the fabric of cathedrals.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, Dem) said that it would be in line with the *Faith in the City* report if more funding could be made available to churches in the inner cities, some of which were having to consider selling local variants of the Mappa Mundi.

In his constituency, one was trying to sell a piece of stained glass as a way of trying to pay for a crumbling Victorian edifice.

Mr Allison said that the Government could give help towards the maintenance of the fabric of parish churches, unlike cathedrals. The Church Urban Fund was generating a huge amount of charitable giving.

## Two Bills promised to help in protecting environment

Two Bills to help to protect and improve the environment are being produced by the Government later in this Parliament. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, said when the debate on the Queen's Speech was resumed.

The first Bill, he said, would introduce an integrated system of pollution control for air, land and water to take account of the unity of the natural environment, putting the pollution inspectorate on a proper statutory footing.

The second would reform waste disposal law and increase local authority powers to regulate waste disposal. Opening the debate, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, moved an amendment regretting that the Queen's Speech contained proposals to create private monopolies by the sale of the nation's water and electricity infrastructure, and regretting the absence of a Bill to safeguard comprehensively the nation's environment and heritage.

He said that the Prime Minister, in her Royal Society speech, had moved the environment to the top of her agenda, but it had been at the top of Labour's for a considerable time. He suspected that Mrs Thatcher was aware that 81 per cent of people believed that the Government should be doing more to protect the environment.

Government ideology was completely out of phase with the demands of ecology because successful policies, to be complementary to sound environmental practice, demanded intervention on a constant and wide-ranging front in every facet of policy. It demanded intervention and interference in a way that could only be antithetical to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Ridley.

Many Conservative MPs were uneasy about the consequences of Government policies, and Labour shared their concern.

The grotesquely distorted developments of the North-South divide were direct consequences of Government policies since 1979. It was not Mr Ridley's fault but that of Mr Michael Heseltine who had opened the floodgates of development in the South.

## QUEEN'S SPEECH

The growth in pressure for development in and around London was a direct result of the policies of this Government since 1979.

The Government was cutting back money on research at a time when there was a Government health warning on eggs because salmonella bacteria was endemic in chickens and eggs.

Government policy on stopping near-market research could lead only to further cuts in long-term scientific work. Ministers continued to downgrade long-term environmental monitoring and research.

Britain had the dirtiest beaches in Europe and nearly 11



Mr Heseltine: Strongly supports water sale

million people were forced to drink water of a quality below that required by EEC standards.

The Government's attitude on tackling the problems of acid rain was dilatory, and Britain was the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide in Western Europe, with an increase of 200,000 tonnes last year.

The Government's response to the results of the Chernobyl catastrophe was still confused and lamentable, and there had been a childish, miserly and dishonest response by the Government to last year's storm damage.

Britain was still the worst offender when it came to dumping materials into the North Sea, including untreated sludge sewage.

The Opposition implacably opposed the sell-off of electricity and water assets and the possibility of the control of such

strategic resources passing abroad.

It was difficult to believe that any national government would elevate the pig-headed pursuit of dogma to such levels. It would mean the end of strategic planning for the electricity industry and a nuclear impost on consumers. Private shareholders got the assets; consumers got the bills.

Water privatization would give consumers no choice. The proposals would result in private monopolies deciding their policies in secret. "There will be no market, no competition, no choice in water supply or sewage disposal."

At a press conference, Mr Ridley said: Let them use Perrier. Thus spoke Nicholas Antoinette (Labour, Leicester). Like electricity privatization, water privatization will cost consumers a great deal. The dogma of the Government will burden the whole economy.

It was this Government that now asked MPs to believe that it had become ideologically colour-blind and taken on a green mantle. Environmentalists did not believe it. Industry did not believe it. Mr Ridley's own pollution inspectors did not believe it and the Opposition did not believe it either.

Mr Ridley said that, contrary to Dr Cunningham's figures, government financing for research would increase from £225 million this year to £319 million next year. How on earth could that be described as a cut?

The Opposition had totally ignored the Water Bill which probably made the biggest ever contribution to cleaning the environment (Opposition laughter).

In a radio broadcast, Dr Cunningham had claimed that there were huge gaps in the Water Bill through which the polluters would be able to drive a coach and horses.

The water authorities were both poachers and game keepers. Although the authorities were the greatest dischargers of pollutants into the rivers, they also had to control the pollution into those same rivers.

That unsatisfactory situation was going to be changed so that for the first time there would be a national body dedicated solely to tackling and forestalling pollution.

"So Dr Cunningham was talking absolute rubbish and he knows it."

He also had claimed that

pollution inspectors were resigning from the department because they did not believe what ministers were saying.

"Because of speculation in the press, much of it misinformed, Mr Rodney Perriman (chief inspector of water and waste, HM Inspectorate of Pollution) and the department have agreed that the reason for his resignation should be stated publicly."

The disagreement related to proposals for HM Inspectors of Pollution in the regions. These proposals, still subject to consultation, were for specialist teams of inspectors in each region.

Mr Perriman had originally supported the idea, but later changed his mind in favour of teams of multi-purpose inspectors equated on a geographical basis.

"I am and he feels it necessary to resign over this and I am sad to see him go. But this is his reason for going and it is in no sense over a disagreement with Government policy, or over lack of resources for the inspectors."

Dr Cunningham's suggestion of a doubling or tripling of water inspectors was also rubbish. Cleaner beaches, better water quality, improvements to sewage treatment, with the necessary investment, might increase prices by 7.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent, in real terms by the end of the century.

The international ministerial conference on ozone depletion in March would have a big impact in helping developing countries to reduce the use of ozone-depleting chemicals.

On acid rain, the Government had undertaken to make 60 per cent reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions from existing large power stations by the year 2003 and a 30 per cent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions. That would involve further substantial cash.

"Most of what needs to be done does not require legislation, but where it does, as in the Water Bill, we will not hesitate to act."

"My own commitment to safeguard the environmental heritage and, indeed, the future of the planet, is no less real because it is founded on careful research and sound science."

"This party has made available in government resources to be able to deliver on this



The Prime Minister planting a North American paper birch at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London, yesterday to mark National Tree Week. She announced that the Government is to provide a further £6 million to help in replacing trees lost in last year's hurricane (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

commitment, unlike the Labour Party."

Mr Michael Heseltine (Hemel Hempstead, C), a former Secretary of State for the Environment, said that he strongly supported the proposal to privatize the water industry. He wanted to move quickly to raise environmental standards in the country's water industry.

"It cannot be denied that a major way of achieving this is to privatize the water industry and to allow the Government to enhance standards of environmental protection. That is what this measure stands for and it is to be welcomed."

The Government should in-

duce an environment White Paper that would set out the practices it had in mind. It should give some idea of the cost and timing of implementation.

Environmental protection offered commercial opportunities. When in the 1970s a Conservative Government introduced health and safety at work legislation, a whole range of industries had emerged to meet the new standards which the Government had imposed.

If Britain now wanted to influence the world market place and world environmental standards, that had to be done in concert with the development of the European single market.

## 'Ingham suite' proposal is rejected

In continued sniping at Mr Bernard Ingham, Mrs Thatcher's chief press officer, a Labour MP suggested that he should be given a suite of rooms at Westminster, as befitted "such a great personage".

Mr Tom Dalglish (Linlithgow, Lab) put this to Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, and asked whether there would be "a sub-station" for Mr Ingham at Buckingham Palace.

Could Mr Wakeham tell MPs once and for all what Mr Ingham had been instructed to say to the lobby on the question of the Queen and Russia? Or was he semi-detached?

Mr Wakeham referred to Mr Dalglish's "rather fanciful suggestions" and said that he had no plans to provide such accommodation for Mr Ingham.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) asked for Com-

mons facilities to televise press briefings by ministers or their press officers.

When a lobby briefing was being given "by someone of the importance of Mr Ingham, who is in fact deputy Prime Minister," the public should be allowed to see him in action, giving his views on national and international affairs.

Mr Wakeham rejected the suggestion that briefings should be televised. Parliamentary lobby journalists had a room allocated to them in a turret above the Upper Committee Corridor.

"I understand it is for their convenience that they invite ministers and their press officers to brief them." Arrangements for briefing outside the House were arranged separately by Government departments. "I do not see any need to change these arrangements."

## Plea for regional tunnel termini

The search for rail termini for the Channel tunnel should be extended into the regions and not confined to central London, it was suggested in the Commons during question time.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport, said that rail termini were a matter for British Rail and sites had been suggested at King's Cross, Stratford and White City.

Mr Christopher Gill (Ludlow, C) asked whether British Rail could be encouraged to look at the possibility of using the cheaper but more extensive sites available north of central London?

Could they also be persuaded of the folly of bringing more passengers into central London, given the present congestion in the metropolis, which bordered on paralysis?

Mr Portillo said that he was keen to see the advantages and benefits of the Channel tunnel extended to every region. However, the terminal closest must offer free, certain and easy interchange to other regions.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab) said that the second largest centre of population in the United Kingdom was from

## TRANSPORT

Merseyside to the Humber. A terminal was needed in the North-west which would serve both those regions. It would be not only an advantage to the regions, but also would relieve congestion in London.

Mr Portillo said that British Rail was required to come forward by the end of next year with plans for regional services for freight and passengers. Discussions were going on through working parties in every region.

Mr Kenneth Hail (West Lancashire, C) asked if consideration could be given to terminal in Manchester and Liverpool, using the route suggested by Mr David Mitchell, the former Minister of State for Transport, in his magazine *Tunnel Vision*, which would take traffic out of central London and straight to the tunnel.

Mr Portillo said that he had read the article with interest and he hoped that Mr Mitchell would pursue the proposals with British Rail. It would be for him to persuade British Rail that the suggestion made the best possible sense.

## PETERBOROUGH



The Commission for the New Towns is now benefiting from the "Peterborough Effect". On October 1, 1988, CNT opened its office in Peterborough and took over the industrial and commercial property assets of the Peterborough Development Corporation. CNT is now working closely with the Peterborough Development Agency to ensure continuation of the development that has made Peterborough England's most famous Roman City.

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Commission for the New Towns, Stuart House, PO Box 3, Peterborough PE1 1UJ.

## 'Stop roads clogging' demand

MPs from both sides of the House called during question time for Government action to stop London's roads grinding to a halt.

Miss Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab), however, who opened the questioning, said that if there were plans to build more roads in London the real concern of the people was homes before roads and safety before profit.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, said that his aim was for a more efficient and attractive public transport, better parking, new technology, trunk roads which would take traffic around London, and to support local authority programmes.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C) said that the problems in London were much better dealt with when they were under the direct control of the Department of Transport. It is high time he assumed responsibility for London's transport.

Mr Channon said that that would need primary legislation and he suspected that it would be difficult to get it through the House. But he had some sympathy with what Mr Higgins had said.

Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) said that huge amounts of investment were needed to stop London grinding to a halt.

Mr Channon agreed. Investment in London Underground and British Rail was considerably higher than before.

Mr Henry Greenwood (Ealing North, C) said that if public transport continued to go round London at an inadequate pace industry would come to a stop and jobs would be lost. "Will he undertake every measure possible to get transport moving more quickly?"

Mr Channon: To achieve what he has in mind it is essential to provide better public transport in London. The public will see this as a gross dereliction of his responsibility. Will he reconsider?

## TRANSPORT



Miss Abbott: Homes before roads; safety before profit

in real terms than it was under the Greater London Council.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, asked Mr Channon to justify his view that an early debate on the Fennell report on the King's Cross fire was not necessary because of the lengthy exchanges which took place on the day of the statement. "The public will see this as a gross dereliction of his responsibility. Will he reconsider?"

Mr Channon said that if the Opposition wanted a debate, the answer was in their hands. Every effort was being made to improve safety on London Underground.

Mr Christopher Mallin (Sunderland South, Lab) said during later questions that the simplest way to reduce the numbers killed on the roads was to reduce the number of heavy lorries, putting freight back on the railways.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, had told him that heavy goods vehicles were less likely to be involved in crashes, but more likely to be associated with fatalities.

He said that one benefit of the Channel tunnel would be that rail freight would benefit from journeys becoming longer. Accidents were caused where vehicles, whether cars, lorries, or motor cycles, travelled too close, too quickly and with too little regard for others.

Mr Tony Lloyd, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the travelling public was fed up with ministerial excuses about motorways. The idea of a "gold card fast lane" for executives was ridiculous.

Mr Bottomley said that if planning was like the last Lab-

our Government's, they would not get very far. Last year, spending on new national roads rose by 30 per cent in real terms in the first seven years of this Government and was now planned to increase by another 20 per cent.

Mr David Tredinnick (Bosworth, C) asked him to consider a "super section" of the M1, which could be funded by the private sector.

Mr Bottomley said that a departmental review of motorways and trunk roads network was being conducted.

They needed to have the right perspective. He was fed up with reading about death crashes causing rush-hour chaos when it was found that the cause was that another human being had been killed in a road accident.

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport, declined to confirm or deny a report in *The Times* today that the extension of the M40 from Oxford to Birmingham would be a three-lane motorway.

He said that it would be better for the House to wait until the new year and see what Mr Channon said.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C), asking for the confirmation, said that the story "seems to be based on a reasonably authoritative leak".

## Road tax for coaches 'far too low'

The relatively low rate of road tax on coaches amounted to unfair competition between rail and road, Mr Timothy Yeo (South Suffolk, C) said during Commons questions. He complained about the damage done to road surfaces by coaches.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said that less than 2 per cent of road wear and tear on the motorways and about 8 per cent on all roads was attributable to buses and coaches.

Mr Yeo said that since wear and tear by passenger coaches

was greater than for ordinary cars, it was ridiculous that the level of taxation paid by coaches was less than was paid on cars.

"This situation prevents any fair competition between rail and road. British Rail is expected to make a contribution to track costs, but passenger coaches do not."

Mr Bottomley said that the Government needed to keep this under review.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) said that, although there had been several side effects from coach deregulation,

the situation in London had been described by the Metropolitan Police as horrendous.

A 53-seat coach paid less road tax than a Fiat Panda. Coaches parked anywhere, paid nothing and left their engines running causing great pollution.

The deregulation Act ought to be reviewed, not with the intention of scrapping it, but to see if at least there should be returned to London boroughs the right to designate coach routes.

Mr Bottomley said that that was a matter that should be considered in some other way elsewhere.

## Volunteers to try tagging

The Home Office is setting up a pilot project for electronic monitoring of offenders, using unconvicted volunteers who have been warned on bail. Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

He said that the Government had not reached final conclusions on the role of electronic monitoring in the handling of offenders.

The experiment would give practical experience of its benefits and limitations.

## Pesticides in water

Routine monitoring has revealed minute traces of pesticides in some drinking water, but Government medical advisers are satisfied that the levels found do not constitute a health risk. Mr Colin Moylan, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said in a written reply.

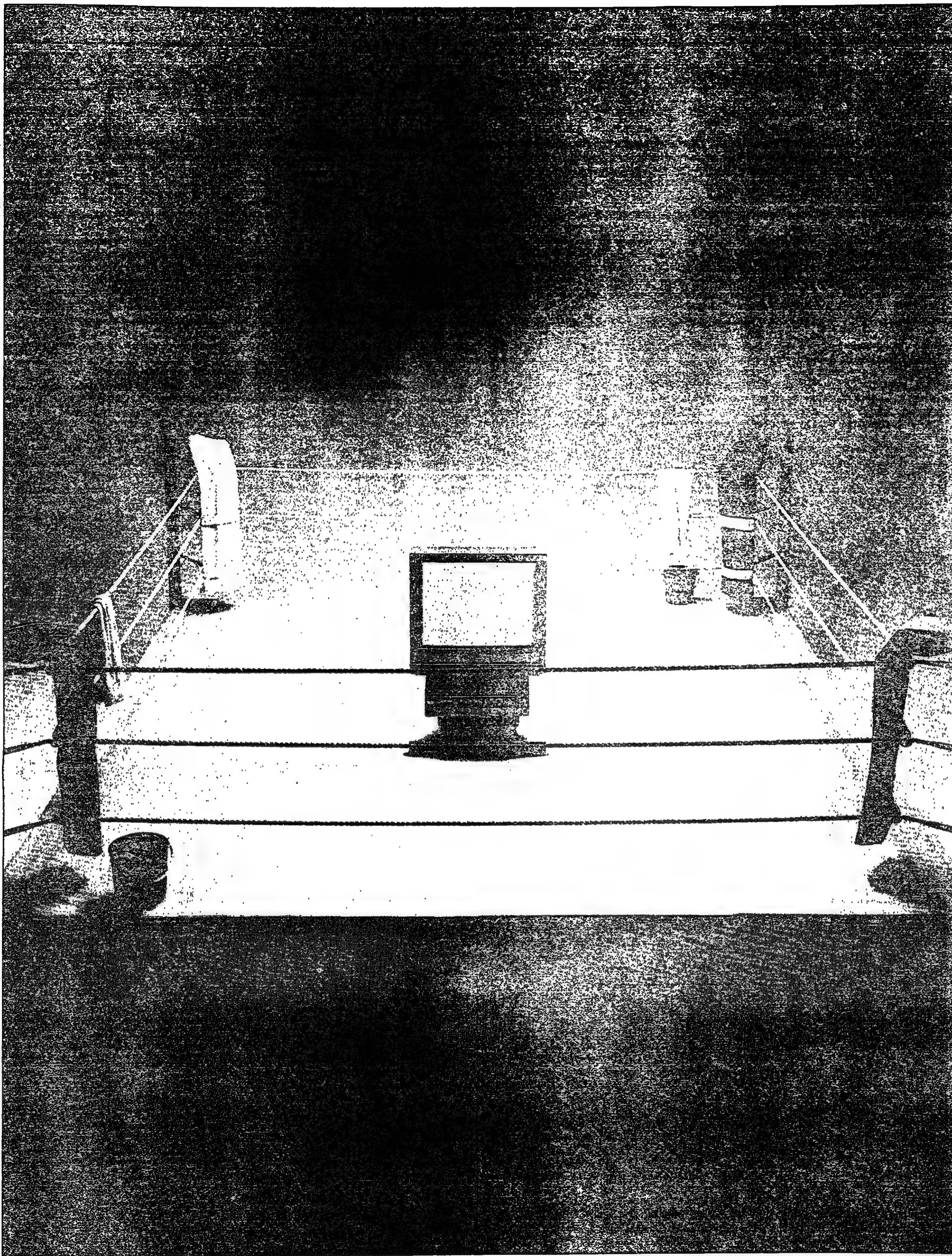
## Identity card

The Home Office has asked the Association of Chief Police Officers for a considered and updated view on the reintroduction of a national identity card system, and is awaiting the association's response. Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Defence; Prime Minister; Conclusion of debate on Queen's Speech (the economy); Lords (2.30): Conclusion of debate on Queen's Speech (economic affairs and the environment).





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## SPECTRUM

# Slowing the march of time

As lifespan increases, senile dementia could reach epidemic proportions. In the final part of his investigation, Thomson Prentice looks at the scientists' battle to control the ageing process itself

Thirty years ago, Malcolm Hodkinson was a young doctor who stepped into what was then seen as the no man's land of medicine. Today, that same area, the health of the elderly, has become one of western society's most important battlefields.

Hodkinson is now professor of geriatric medicine at University College, London. When he began his career, about 300 people in Britain lived to be 100. Now there are eight times as many, and the millions who emerged in the post-war baby boom are almost half way towards their own potential centenarians, and preoccupied with their own future health.

"We are all living longer, and the need to improve the quality of life in old age is one of this century's biggest challenges," Hodkinson says. "We may not have cared enough about yesterday's old, but we have to be prepared for our own tomorrows."

By the end of the 20th century, the average lifespan in Europe is predicted by some experts to be double the 45 years that were typical at the beginning of it. The outlook has improved because of successes in tackling infant mortality, the development of antibiotics and vaccines, a cleaner environment, and better standards of health care.

Soon, even more remarkable gains in longevity may be within reach, through an entirely new approach. Scientists are now looking at the ageing process itself, with the aim of trying to slow it down. Their theory is that the answers lie within our genes, which undergo subtle but significant changes as we grow older. From the moment of conception, the theory goes, every individual is affected by random changes in DNA, the chemical building blocks of life. These alterations help determine the speed at which we age.

The theory is being put to the test at the Institute of Experimental Gerontology at Rijswijk, near Delft in the Netherlands, where Dr Andre Uitterlinden and colleagues have developed a new technique which, for the first time, allows such changes to be studied.

The technique is a refinement of the "genetic fingerprinting" breakthrough made by a British re-

searcher, Dr Alec Jeffreys, of Leicester University, in 1984. By subjecting a piece of human DNA to a series of sophisticated tests, he proved that the identity of its owner could be confirmed, like a fingerprint test, but with even more accuracy.

Uitterlinden says the refined process will offer enormous insights into how we age. "We can look at how the genetic material inside cells changes, and can see minute mutations in DNA molecules occurring," he says.

While medical advances in the last few decades have largely thwarted many of the old killers, such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, influenza and other once-lethal infections, in their place have come other diseases — not new, but camouflaged by the previous limits of lifespan.

Many specialists believe that cancer, heart disease, senile dementia and other degenerative conditions are a potential risk to us all, but only some of us live long enough to develop them. As the average age of life expectancy increases, Hodkinson says that today it is not the fear of death that overshadows our last years, but the anxiety that we will lose our freedom through mental and physical disabilities.

Possibly as many as a million people in Britain are suffering from Alzheimer's disease, the incurable (and most common) form of dementia. By 1995, the number is expected to double. Worldwide predictions indicate that by the year 2025, there could be 100 million dementia patients, half of whom will be victims of Alzheimer's disease.

Figures like these paint a frightening picture of an epidemic which makes even AIDS seem manageable, for the prospect is of large sections of society stricken by a condition that robs them of their memories, their personalities and their independence, while imposing cruel burdens on the relatives who have to care for them perhaps for many long and painful years.

At its advanced stage, Alzheimer's disease leads to complete mental and physical deterioration. Almost everything is forgotten, including the difference between

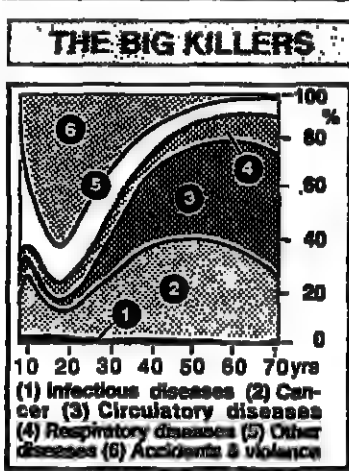


day and night. This sad process can take from five to 15 years to reach the stage when the sufferer dies, usually because the body can no longer support itself and resist infections.

The condition is named after Alois Alzheimer, a German neurologist, who identified it at the beginning of this century. Since then, doctors and scientists have made comparatively little progress in understanding its causes, or producing treatments for it.

It affects women more than men, and usually begins to appear around the age of 60, although it can strike much earlier, and involves the progressive loss of brain cells. The chances of developing it increase with age. At least 20 per cent of the over-75s may be vulnerable.

Recently, researchers have identified a genetic, inheritable factor that appears to be linked with some cases. The gene itself has not been located, but the search for it has intensified and is beginning to show results. Scientists from Britain and five other countries



have joined forces to speed the work, as part of an ambitious European collaborative programme. Blood samples from families in which two or more members are known to have developed the illness are to be studied in Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, to provide an accurate picture of its path. The British contribution is being

led by Dr John Hardy and Dr Alison Goate, of St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington, London. "It's a very exciting project," Hardy says. "We already know on which human chromosome the gene is located, which means that instead of looking for a needle in a haystack, we are concentrating on just one bale of hay."

The size of the task, however, remains colossal. The "haystack" contains three billion components of genetic code. The elimination process has produced a "bale" of 20 million such components. It may take five, and perhaps 10 more years, before the Alzheimer "needle" is eventually found. It is possible that a drug could be developed to block the progress of the condition, and that through improved diagnosis, those individuals most at risk could be given, early in life, valuable advice on how to reduce risk factors. Changes in diet, for instance, might have an important effect. Meanwhile, there are important other advances which will counter

the diseases of old age. An international team of researchers recently announced what was described as the biggest advance in 25 years in the treatment and prevention of heart attacks. The results of the four-year study show that the combined use of aspirin and a clot-dissolving drug, streptokinase, could save 5,000 lives a year in Britain alone, at low cost and with few side effects.

The introduction of a national breast cancer screening programme in the UK next year can be expected gradually to whittle down the annual toll of about 15,000 deaths, predominantly among elderly women, from the disease.

Scientists are also optimistic about combating osteoporosis, the bone disorder which is most common in post-menopausal women. It causes brittle bones, spinal curvature and other painful effects which result in the "little old lady" syndrome, or what is sometimes called "dowager's hump".

The condition costs the National Health Service an estimated annual £500 million in treatment, and is responsible for the premature death of more than 5,000 women a year, according to the charity Research Into Ageing. The charity is funding investigations into the hormonal changes which may trigger the condition, and into the benefits of hormone replacement therapy, which helps keep the illness at bay.

Dr Timothy Arnett, of University College, London, says: "It has been difficult to decide which women are most suited for this treatment, but we believe safe and easy forms of application of it will become widely used in the near future. But further efforts will be needed to understand and combat what remains one of the potentially more preventable diseases of ageing."

Hodkinson says: "Society is slowly coming round to realizing that the general increase in lifespan will bring huge problems as well as great benefits. The health of the elderly has been, for too long, a fourth-division field. It must now be elevated to the top of our priorities."

Already, more than 40 per cent of the NHS budget is spent on the over-65s, who occupy half of all hospital beds, and take up three quarters of all district nursing services. The care of the over-75s is currently put at £4 billion a year.

"There is generous spending on the elderly when they fall ill, but almost nothing is spent on keeping them well," says a spokesman for Senior Citizens' Life Programme, a voluntary group. "We need a new approach to the fastest growing sector of the population."

## NEW WORDS FOR OLD

### Never the Twain

Silence at the back there. The Prime Minister speaks: "Language, you know, matters very much... It's so much easier always to be speaking in your own language when you're negotiating. And we (Great Britain and the United States) have a similar inheritance, a similar democracy... It (our relationship) is very close and it will be, because of history, because of language."

Well, up to a point, Lady Iron. You could say, if Oscar Wilde had not said it first, that we have everything in common with America nowadays, except, of course, language. Mark Twain declared: "When I speak my native tongue in its utmost purity in England, an Englishman can't understand me at all."

At a superficial level, Americans and Britons speak the same language. But if you look closer, we speak separate families of the English language. Misunderstandings are inevitable. Let us take a little example of shifting grammar and idiom, too recent to have been recorded in the latest dictionaries. Have you taken on board yet, as they say, what is happening in our separate languages to what the grammar-

you're looking to a good hiding, my boy.



GEO.

arians will describe as the monotonous prepositional verb "look to"? In British English it is starting to be used to mean something like to expect, to seek to, hope to.

As usual the trendy phrase appears in the sports pages and sporting broadcasts. You will recognize the sort of thing: "The home team will be looking to get a result against the visitors next Saturday."

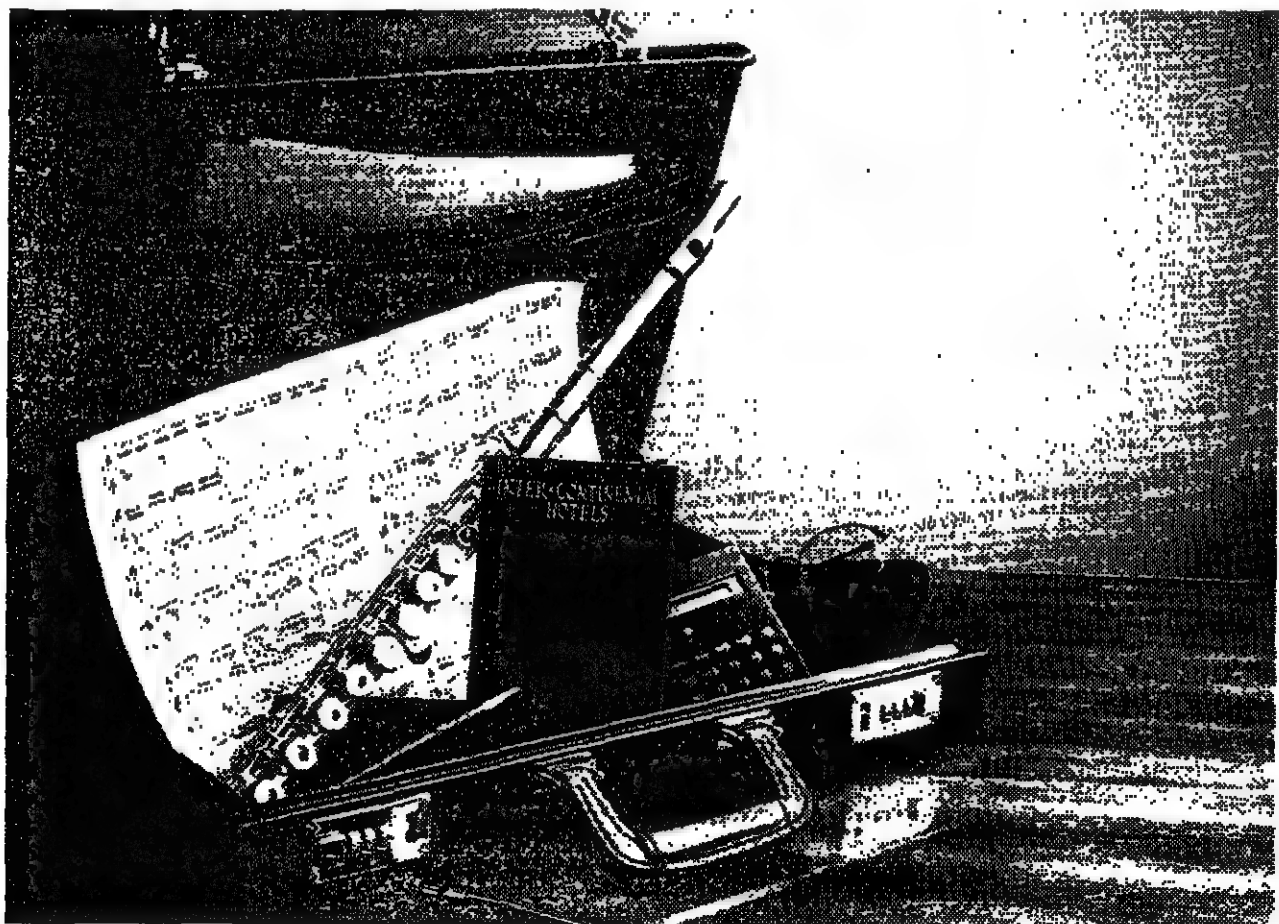
Here is an example from a piece called "Forever on the Move" by Pat McNellie in *New Statesman & Society* of October 8: "The reasons for migration are many and complex, but most people on the move are looking to improve their living standards or their safety." This idiom is new. But I have no difficulty in understanding what is meant by it.

Contrast with US usage, where "look to" seems to me to be developing different grammar and idiom. *The Owl Papers*, by Jonathan Evans Maslow (New York, 1983), pp 26-7 (An owl is being mobbed by crows): "The owl punched stolidly, the skulking crows surrounding it adding an ominous, professional mood to the proceedings. The owl looked to be encircled by six cloaked hitmen, already at work in the early dawn, still groggy and fulfilling a contract without enthusiasm." Fine imaginative writing, but pure American idiom, where "look to" means what the British would say by "look as if (or though)".

We do in a way speak the same language, Mr Thatcher. But, by Twain and Wilde, they are different.

Philip Howard

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## Money is luring court clerks away from the system

### Crisis in the court

Christopher Wix spent seven years training to be a solicitor. Aged 28, he earns about £14,000 a year in the demanding and highly skilled job of court clerk at Watford magistrates' court, Hertfordshire. Although he loves the work, he is considering moving elsewhere — purely for the money.

"I'm very tempted to join the Crown Prosecution Service, which pays between £3,000 and £6,000 a year more, or even go into private practice, where the sky's the limit," he says. Wix is lucky in that he does not have a family. "There's no way I could afford to get married unless my wife was working," he says. Yet, with a £350 a month mortgage on a one-bedroom house, he still finds it "a very great struggle" to make ends meet.

It is a sadly typical situation and one that is ravaging Britain's already overworked court system in which most of the highly qualified 1,200 court clerks (there are about 130 vacancies) earn between £13,000 and £15,000. A growing number of court hearings are being cancelled due to lack of staff and the administrative backlog mounts daily.

"We are talking about a crisis as regards court clerks," says Ian Fowler, principle chief clerk in Inner London. "It has become increasingly difficult to recruit barristers and solicitors because we are unable to compete with the higher salaries offered by the Crown Prosecution Service."

Court clerks are responsible for advising the lay magistrates on the law, overseeing court procedure and, in domestic proceedings, taking a verbatim note of the evidence. They have to be either qualified barristers or solicitors or, as law graduates, they can take an internal diploma in magisterial law.

But increasingly, once they have qualified, they leave for more remunerative work elsewhere which must affect the willingness of courts' committees to spend the necessary £3,000 or £4,000 on their initial training. And, unlike their counterparts in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), who deal purely in criminal law, the extent of their legal knowledge must also include civil law.

With their current pay negotiations in arbitration and those of the justices' clerks — who run the magistrates' courts — being referred to arbitration, Tony Heath, the secretary of the Justices' Clerks' Society, believes that "realistically, court clerks have got to be paid comparable amounts to crown prosecutors simply because that is the most obvious avenue for people leaving the service".

He says: "It's no secret that the CPS regards the magistrates' courts as its primary recruitment source. But it really is pointless for the CPS and the courts to be in

committal proceedings to driving without due care and attention, and from child care disputes to licensing applications.

"Ultimately, the buck always stops with the clerk," she says. "Everyone always looks to the clerk for legal advice. If the defence lawyer says one thing and the prosecution counsel another, then the magistrates ask the court clerk for his or her opinion. And if anything goes wrong — and at its most extreme that could mean wrongful imprisonment — then the court clerk gets the blame."

Fletcher, who qualified five years ago, became a court clerk "because I wanted to do magisterial law. But the thought of going into private practice is becoming more and more attractive simply because it's better paid and I would have thought, given the right firm, the morale is better. I prefer working here because the work is challenging and varied but, for people to whom money is the prime objective, the CPS is appealing."

She has stayed in her job because she lives two minutes away from the court and, being married to a solicitor, is not entirely dependent on her salary. But she says: "I resent being paid so little compared to the rest of the legal profession. Now I'm looking around for something that's better paid and if I find it I will have to take it. And because morale is so low in the clerking service, it doesn't satisfy my practical ambitions. The CPS employees are just treated as more professional people."

But even if salaries are increased, Tony Heath does not think it will solve the problem "because magistrates' courts are competing with other people for a scarce commodity and nationally there is a shortage of lawyers".

He adds: "Morale in the courts is being seriously affected by court clerks leaving as soon as they are qualified so you get a constant through-flow of able people. The court service is not deriving the benefit from the investment it is making and that unsettles the staff who don't move."

Sally Brompton

**'It is a difficult job. You have got to know the law inside out and have your wits about you'**

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## FASHION by Liz Smith

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## Go western, young girl

After a rough patch in the mid-Eighties, denim is enjoying a revival as people climb back into blue jeans, lumberjack shirts and cowboy boots

Any one of the masses who contribute to the haze of blue denim shimmering over the streets would vehemently deny it. But to pull on a pair of jeans is to make a significant statement.

Being buttoned into a pair of Levi 501s or muffled inside a bright, plaid ranger's jacket may feel like a rejection of everything to do with fashion, but it is a declaration of allegiance to a currently fashionable ethos. The honest values that denim stands for, the rugged styling of what started out in life as workers' overalls and lumberjacks' shirts, display an appreciation of basic good taste which, along with a nostalgia for traditional classics, is back in vogue.

The opening next week in London's Ganton Street, off Canaby Street, of The Base—a shop dedicated to the jeans, chambray shirts, moccasins and thick wool "mackinaws" that are associated with western workwear but are today's casual classics—is proof that denim plays as vigorous a role as ever.

The retailer investing his money in this conviction is Stephen Marks. Head of French Connection, the £60-million manufacturing and retailing empire, he is a man who carefully calculates the odds.

His acquisition last year of Western Jeans, a chain of 18 shops spread from Leicester to the North, provided him with the means to test the market. Sales have been buoyant, and a recent report by the market research group Textile Market Studies confirms a denim revival: having slumped from £55 million in 1981 to £36 million in the mid-Eighties (when even 16-year-olds impersonated *femmes fatales* in exaggerated lady-like pencil skirts, and the right accessory was a Chanel bag and a pair of clean gloves), jeans sales last year were £43 million and rising.

Marks sees denim as the blank canvas on which to build a personal look—smothered in tribal emblems for a folkie style or sharply pressed and worn with crisp tailoring.

"Jeans look marvellous, whether worn with a Chanel tweed jacket, pearls and chain, or with a leather biker's blouson," he says.

While the key players in The Base remain blue jeans (Levi's, Pepe, the French Et Vous line, as well as its own



label, Sharp), a supporting wardrobe has been perfected by The Base's design director, Bob Swan.

From the basic white cotton, round-necked vest that is the essential first layer at £4.99, through all the thick blanket-wool jackets, or mackinaws at £39.99, cord-hacking jackets at £49.99, right up to a leather flying

blouson bristling with zips at £150, it is obvious that the price tag is as honest as the styling.

The going rate for a pair of jeans is about £24.99; Levi's and other top labels change hands for around £40. At The Base, a simple chambray or dyed poplin shirt with horn buttons costs £19.99, and a denim shirt with leather collar is £26.99.

The cowboy boots, bandannas, suede waistcoats and cords, as well as the names of in-house labels (Rednecks, Sierra Madre), emphasize the unlimited horizons to which the western workwear dress code can be stretched. The same jackets, lumberjack shirts, sweatshirts and jeans are worn by both sexes. The Flores de Amazon label is stitched inside a range of women's clothes. Flowered ribbon detailing is added to certain denim jackets and "jeans" skirts.

Prairie circle skirts with weighted, printed hems are particularly pretty at £26.99. Ballerina wrap cotton jersey tops at £14.99, overprinted velvet minis and waistcoats, and tight jeans-detailed skirts in black embossed velvet mix well with the look. There is a tweed hacking jacket for women at £49.99.

Scarves, tooled leather belts, boxer shorts, bags and luggage allow the customer a wide range of self-expression.

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Above: Her denim jacket with ribbon trimming, £34.99; paisley brushed cotton shirt, assorted colours, £17.99; wool scarf, £4.99; cotton T-shirt, £4.99; Sharp jeans, £24.99; all The Base. Brown felt hat, £16.99, branches of Miss Selfridge nationwide. Wool shawl, from selection at Liberty, W1. Bob Swan, design director at The Base, in black leather biker's jacket, £150; chambray shirt, £19.99; Sharp jeans, £24.99; all The Base. Grey ribbed lambswool scarf, £12.90, branches of Benetton

Left: Lumberjack jacket in brown/green check wool mix, £39.99; tweed waistcoat, £22.99; gold cotton shirt, £24.99; jeans, £24.99; all The Base. Cowboy boots, £49.99, Ravel

Far left: Taupe suede waistcoat, £29.99, also in tobacco; pastel checked brushed cotton shirt, £17.99; denim shirt with frayed edges on collar and pockets, £22.99; cotton jersey sweat pants, £24.99, in navy, marne or black; all The Base. Timberland tan boots, £92.50, Pindisports 7/8 Conduit Street, W1; 14/18 Holborn EC1

The Base, 16-20 Ganton Street, W1, opens December 7



Photographs by CLIVE ARROWSMITH  
Hair by Fiona Corrigan for Gerald Lind  
Make-up by Vanessa Hayes

'Jeans look marvellous, whether worn with a Chanel jacket or a biker's blouson'

Stephen Marks  
of French Connection

## PEOPLE

## Wearing the royal standard

The witty and ever-elegant Hardy Amies remains the biggest success story in British fashion. Now a vigorous 79-year-old, with his dignified couture establishment settled for 41 years in Savile Row and flourishing there still, his is the one British label powerful enough to support 40 lucrative licences around the world, selling anything from men's suits and ties, to bed linen, china and fragrances.

Tonight he addresses the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry before this year's RDI appointments are announced and, as always, will champion the pleasure of "the feel of good clothes on the body".

Appointed an RDI himself in 1984, and made Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in Jubilee Year in 1977, Amies predicts that couture will still be appreciated in the next century.

The freedom of movement given by skilled cutting is a pleasure that comes naturally to the well-born, he says. "But once it is acquired by the socially ambitious it is not easily abandoned... thank goodness!"

Tight clothes and "vulgar" short skirts, are abhorrences to this distinguished arbiter of good taste, whose couture house makes a third of the Queen's wardrobe.

## Eyes on the clock

A powerful posse from the Bulgari family of jewellers and watchmakers was in London last week for the opening of their first London shop in Bond Street, and an exhibition of dazzling gems at Goldsmiths' Hall.

Nicole Bulgari, vice president of the family company, took the opportunity to present to the Goldsmiths' Company (of which he is a foreign associate) a magnificent chased silver centrepiece. I could not help noticing that he sported a dashing mauve and pink striped watch. It turned out that this elegant accessory, far from being an exclusive new Bulgari creation, was a simple Swatch.

## Charity shopping

After your buying spree at The Times's Christmas Shopping Evening at Liberty tonight, you can cross off the rest of the items on your list tomorrow when Simpson's of Piccadilly hosts a shopping day in aid of the NSPCC. Piled with muled wine and mince pies, you could stock up with Daks silk cravats, cashmere socks or pretty lingerie, as well as find one-off items such as silver card holders or grape scissors at Simpson's successful antiques counter, Property of a Gentleman.

To achieve the target of £15,000 for the NSPCC, raffle prizes have been donated. They include an outfit from Caroline Charles, and a week-end for two at Captain Mark Phillips's Gleneagles Equestrian Centre. Work out the mileage from Heathrow to New York on Concorde, and back to Southampton on the QE2 and you could win a similar round trip for two.

Simpson's is open from 9am to 8pm tomorrow. The winning raffle tickets will be drawn at 7pm.

## Historical gifts that re-create the past

FROM spectacular Saxon jewellery to William Morris prints, you'll find the new Past Times shop in London's Brompton Road full of fine and unusual Christmas presents.

The historic replicas, crafts and cards are all based on authentic artifacts or images from the different ages of the past.

The originals are part of our heritage, from major museums, great buildings and works of art. There are pleasing and practical household items too—Tudor pewter, elegant 18th century glass and china, Victorian cast iron and traditional kitchenware.

The great White Horse at Uffington, Oxfordshire represented in this silver brooch was probably a tribal symbol of the Dobunni or Atrebates.

In fact there is something for almost everyone—tapestry kits, children's toys, early music tapes and compact discs from Roman and medieval times to Victorian

music boxes, and lots of unusual books such as the A-Z of Victorian London.

For Christmas you can recapture the images and music of the Middle Ages and the Victorians, each with a fine selection of authentic and reasonably-priced stationery and decorations.

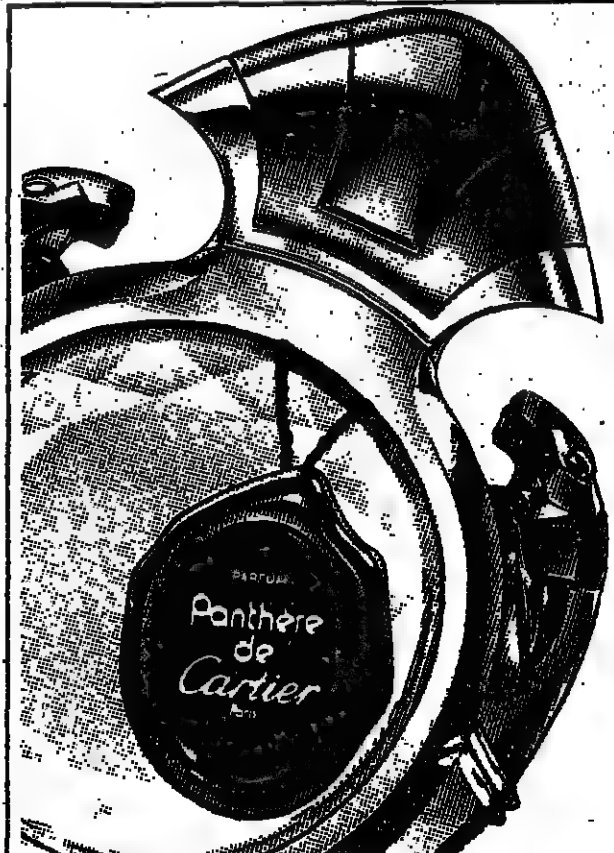
You might think prices would be high, but in fact Past Times offers excellent value for money, with many items between £2.50 and £10.

Past Times also runs a national mail order service. A colour catalogue showing over 350 items is available free at the shop, or by telephoning 0736 753443 at any time.

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# TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

Only months before his Whitehall-enforced purdah ends and he takes up one of the lucrative business directorships he has been offered, Lord Armstrong, the former Cabinet Secretary, has begun to move into the open. It looks, though, as if the man who was once economical with the truth will never be entirely free from controversy.

Armstrong recently succeeded Lord Carrington as trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum. He now finds himself earnestly courted by two opposing camps in a V&A row involving artefacts, old buildings, financial corner-cutting, and race. The dispute is over the siting of the new museum of Indian art that has been pencilled in for Bradford, cultural mecca of northern England. The V&A is trying to clear out its capacious cellars of material that goes unviewed, a collection which includes the celebrated Gandhara sculptures. Loud voices are clamouring for the return of the treasures to the sub-continent. But they are being ignored in favour of linking up with Britain's own Indian community.

The issue is over where in Bradford the new museum should be sited. On one side is the chairman of the trustees, Sir Clifford Chetwood, the Wimpey magnate. His opinion on matters of property and construction is hard to contradict, and he wants the museum bang in the middle of Bradford's shopping centre. But Elisabeth Esteve-Coll, the V&A director, has been heavily lobbied to put the museum into a 19th century Grade II listed textile mill in the heart of Bradford's Asian quarter.

Further, the mill supporters want to tie it in with various initiatives including an Asian Studies Centre linked with the University of Bradford (strongly supported by the university's chancellor, Sir John Harvey-Jones). Adding spice to the curry is a Cabinet Office nominee on the V&A board, who might feel anxious about voting against Lord Armstrong, his former boss; the possible intervention of Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary; and Prince Charles (represented by his surrogate, Rod Hackney, who has been involved with an alternative Bradford scheme for the museum). That's a recipe for a fine old battle. Lord A will have to take sides in a fortnight.

Meanwhile, in a little-noticed lecture, Lord Armstrong has delivered himself of some thoughts which, in the hands of a careful decoder, could sound remarkably like criticism of the Thatcher style. He deplored, in a gentle way, the current lack of long-term thinking, and even heard to utter a sigh of regret at the passing of the Central Policy Review Staff, the Think Tank, one of the Prime Minister's *espèces nées*. The rest was deeply escript but there was no mistaking Armstrong's reiteration that civil servants are underpaid and under-appreciated, assertions with which not all the Prime Minister's friends would agree.

BARRY FANTONI



'The solution's obvious - change the charge to football hooliganism'

Back to British Asians again, but in a different part of the country. From last week Tower Hamlets' large Bangladeshi community has found itself ruled over by a former Augustinian lay-brother. The new chief executive of the multiracial borough on the fringes of London's dockland prosperity is John McBride, a diminutive Derryman who retains the deep Catholic faith that once brought him close to becoming a monk.

McBride, 44 and formerly a junior civil servant in the Home Office, takes over at a trying time. Late last week Labour won a seat in Lansbury ward, which means the Social and Liberal Democrats retain power only through the casting vote of the mayor - shades of Bradford, and hardly a recipe for stability. His predecessor as chief executive, Charles Lea, left in the summer in unhappy circumstances, and, if nothing else, McBride will have to rebuild town hall confidence - town halls' confidence rather, since under Liberal impetus Tower Hamlets has been centralized to a series of neighbourhood bases.

Much will hinge on the relations McBride can establish with Michael Honey, chief executive of the London Docklands Development Corporation, which has the money and (since recently) a bad conscience over how little the regeneration of docklands has yet done for the pre-puppy residents of Limehouse, Wapping and Bethnal Green. Honey used to work for Liberal-controlled Richmond council, so at least the two men have common experience of Democrat rule. Honey's money will be paid on condition Tower Hamlets shows the corporation a friendly face on planning and roads.

McBride has problems aplenty. He has to organize the collection of poll tax when, as he says diplomatically, many of Tower Hamlets' Asians have good cause to fear an official knock on the door. Nicholas Ridley and his Housing Action Trusts are nibbling at his domain in one quarter, and the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority has presented him with the not altogether welcome task of organizing a schools service from scratch.

But at least he can try his hand at making money. One of his immediate bequests from his predecessor is a huge development along the banks of the River Lea in partnership with Rosehaugh, part of the borough's effort to get a bigger share of the East London boom for itself.

Nigel Lawson's House of Commons speech today will be a critical test. Can the Chancellor dig himself out of the economic quicksands? With steady nerves and some imagination, he could do so; and promote some longer term structural reforms of the economy at the same time.

The Chancellor cannot budge from the short-term need for high interest rates. They are the only demonstrably effective means, in today's deregulated financial markets, of squeezing monetary growth. They are also the premium which Britain has to pay to buy out foreign investors' nervousness about sterling and the state of the UK economy.

But Mr Lawson could turn the tables on his critics by looking at three strategies which would lessen his need to rely on interest rates alone, and reshape the longer-term debate towards reforms which could help the economy.

First, he should look at tax incentives for personal savings, to reduce inflationary demand in the economy and at the same time encourage wider share ownership. Respected voices - among them Lord Vinson, David Howell and the Wider Share Ownership Council - are expressing concern that the drive to devolve economic power by strengthening the ownership and

market, they tend to focus on the economic prospects facing Britain. The government exhorts British companies to prepare to compete on equal terms with their European counterparts. There is, however, a challenge to our national parliament too: how it can hold ministers accountable for the decisions the Community takes.

Westminster's reaction is complicated by the diversity of views held by MPs about the EEC. They cut across party lines. The full-hearted Europeans in the Conservative Party, heirs of the Heath tradition, are now led by Michael Heseltine. They are committed to a Community with a common currency, a European central bank and broadly similar indirect taxes. They are more than matched by Conservatives attracted by the free trading and deregulating philosophy of the Treaty of Rome but who distrust creating a European centre of government.

The Labour Party has generally moved towards acceptance of the EEC and is now showing some enthusiasm for the creation of Brussels government based upon the social philosophy of Jacques Delors, current president of the European Commission. Yet Tony Benn and his supporters, matching Heseltine's enthusiasm, remain committed to the means of national government to secure socialist ends.

It is hardly a political mixture that can easily be adapted to Commons decision-taking where there are only two voting lobbies. That is the current political challenge to which the executive and Parliament must respond. To that prospective debate the Prime Minister has made a substantial contribution with recent speeches at Bruges and Luxembourg. She affirmed her faith in the economic liberalism of the Treaty of Rome and warned that "a centralized European govern-

ment would be a nightmare". She also asserted that "our future must lie in willing and active co-operation between independent sovereign governments, each answerable to their national parliaments". The sentiments are striking, but the British practice is unimpressive.

In Community affairs, the House of Commons has only modest influence over the executive. Before British ministers vote upon documents in the European Council, they can be debated in the House. To this end the House is assisted by the Select Committee on European Legislation which has the important but limited task of evaluating the mass of documents and deciding whether their importance requires that they should be debated on the floor of the House or in a modest sized committee.

This procedure doubtless does give the Commons some influence. Yet it has major handicaps too. There is the difficulty of providing adequate time for debate. When time is found, much of the discussion takes place after the day's main business. Moreover, Parliament cannot effectively mandate a minister in what is often a complex bargaining process.

In addition, the volume of documents has grown with the enlargement of the EEC and will expand further with the single European market. The workload is now at breaking point, a danger recently underlined in a Commons debate by Terence Higgins, the senior select committee chairman. Ministerial responsibility to Parliament for EEC matters, while not a sham, is certainly a shadow. It does not fit the Prime Minister's concern that sovereign governments should be "answerable to their national parliaments".

There is one immediate step the Commons could take to improve its relations with the executive on the EEC: the establishment of a select committee on European Community affairs. The standing order

Graham Mather proposes a solution to Britain's economic ills

## Let's have a savings boom

savings base of individuals could soon run out of steam. A tax-free boost to income from savings would shift attention to investment and away from expensive credit: encourage people to strengthen their capital assets, and so be able to rely less on fluctuating income from employment; and be compatible with wider individual ownership of shares.

Coupled with a *Lei Lawson*, to give direct tax relief for the purchase of equities, and with the Capital Bond (a high interest five-year bond paid gross of tax announced in the Autumn Statement), a focus on savings could give a powerful push to personal ownership.

If the Chancellor were really ingenious, he might also bundle in some tax incentives geared specifically to investment for retirement. Since the US government launched tax-effective individual retirement accounts (IRAs), workers have flooded into the schemes. Even though tax breaks have since been

limited, 93 per cent of America's single wage earners are still eligible for a full IRA deduction, along with 94 per cent of one-earner couples and 77 per cent of two-earner couples.

The prospect of strengthening dedicated retirement savings, and therefore easing the burden on taxpayer-financed public social security systems, would have powerful attractions for the Chancellor - and be difficult for his opponents to attack if they genuinely wish to protect the elderly from political conflict over "pay as you go" state benefits.

Secondly, the Chancellor should turn to the long-running battle to individualize pay bargaining. Ministers worry about the macro-economic effect of pay inflation: but the only way to set pay effectively (and in a less inflationary way) is to decentralize or individualize pay agreements. Britain's large traditional employers preach decentralized, performance pay, but practise old-style collective

bargaining with national rates of pay across the business.

The risk is that upward pressures on pay - skill shortages, profit growth and strong demand - together with an unreformed pay bargaining system will stultify the next wave of job creation, fuel inflation and weaken overseas investor confidence.

An imaginative incentive from the Chancellor here could increase the number of new workers outside the collective bargaining net. So far tax incentives which have applied to schemes like Profit Related Pay have been low - costing the Treasury less than £100 million.

Small companies have shunned the larger by dominating the schemes. This week Norman Fowler has heralded a further push against the residual closed shop. Academic research by Andrew Oswald and David Blanchflower has shown that heavily unionized companies tend to be less good at creating jobs than their non-collective bargaining counterparts.

The existing modest tax relief for profit-related pay is given to workers. The Chancellor could make it more generous and extend the scheme to include self-employed workers working on contract. He could also give a measure of tax relief to employers themselves. This way it could give large companies with healthy profits an incentive to take the time-consuming and expensive steps necessary to break down pay bargaining - which has knock-on inflationary risks - to an individual-by-individual system compatible with individual labour contracts.

The Chancellor's third weapon is to open up a more serious debate on the techniques of monetary control. It is monetary growth, not tax cuts, which lies behind inflationary pressures. Today's financial service markets make traditional techniques, like statutory credit controls, ineffective and easily bypassed. To require clearing banks to place large deposits with the Bank of England would

also be unnecessarily interventionist.

Recent events show that the monetarists were right: the rapid growth of money supply over the last three years has now led through to inflation.

Eventually, ministers will have to tackle its ultimate causes: the way, for example, in which planning controls force up the price of land, distort economic signals and give a powerful credit-based start to the inflationary push. But there are more immediate and tractable issues. The Chancellor should show that he means to target M0 more closely - an intention which he heralded recently in a little-noticed speech - and to narrow its range.

He can emphasize that monetary aggregates matter; and he can begin to strengthen the perceived authority and institutional independence of the Bank of England, gradually moving it away from day-by-day Treasury intervention on a path which might ultimately lead to competition in the issuing of currency.

Above all, he can open these debates powerfully and early. On savings, pay and monetary control strong arguments are on his side. He should not wait until the Budget to deploy them.

The author is general director, Institute of Economic Affairs.

John Biffen

## A firmer hand on Europe

When politicians turn their minds to the challenges of 1992 and the single European market, they tend to focus on the economic prospects facing Britain. The government exhorts British companies to prepare to compete on equal terms with their European counterparts. There is, however, a challenge to our national parliament too: how it can hold ministers accountable for the decisions the Community takes.

Westminster's reaction is complicated by the diversity of views held by MPs about the EEC. They cut across party lines. The full-hearted Europeans in the Conservative Party, heirs of the Heath tradition, are now led by Michael Heseltine. They are committed to a Community with a common currency, a European central bank and broadly similar indirect taxes. They are more than matched by Conservatives attracted by the free trading and deregulating philosophy of the Treaty of Rome but who distrust creating a European centre of government.

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In Community affairs, the House of Commons has only modest influence over the executive. Before British ministers vote upon documents in the European Council, they can be debated in the House. To this end the House is assisted by the Select Committee on European Legislation which has the important but limited task of evaluating the mass of documents and deciding whether their importance requires that they should be debated on the floor of the House or in a modest sized committee.

This procedure doubtless does give the Commons some influence. Yet it has major handicaps too. There is the difficulty of providing adequate time for debate. When time is found, much of the discussion takes place after the day's main business. Moreover, Parliament cannot effectively mandate a minister in what is often a complex bargaining process.

In addition, the volume of documents has grown with the enlargement of the EEC and will expand further with the single European market. The workload is now at breaking point, a danger recently underlined in a Commons debate by Terence Higgins, the senior select committee chairman. Ministerial responsibility to Parliament for EEC matters, while not a sham, is certainly a shadow. It does not fit the Prime Minister's concern that sovereign governments should be "answerable to their national parliaments".

There is one immediate step the Commons could take to improve its relations with the executive on the EEC: the establishment of a select committee on European Community affairs. The standing order

estimating the EEC select committee would provide the traditional wide-ranging powers of select committees, and would allow for enough members to fill sub-committees, including one for the work now undertaken by the committee on European legislation.

It would become a powerful microcosm of the Chamber able to comment both upon the merits of Commission proposals and more general topics such as the European Monetary System. It would be able to judge the consequences of political rulings of the European Court, such as the one which now requires the Government to extend the scope of value added tax.

It is important that Parliament, no less than the executive, should judge what changes in national law are required to fulfil judgments by the European Court. Such a committee could join forces with the existing House of Lords EEC committee, which already has wider powers than its Commons counterpart. There are plenty of precedents for such joint action.

The proposal for a major Commons European select committee is clearly a limited one. It has, however, three merits. First, it does not commit the Commons or the Government to an inflexible structure. There are no mandatory provisions as exist, for instance, in the Danish parliament, which bind the government to its EEC committee.

On the other hand the views of a select committee can assist a British minister when arguing his difficulties within the European Council. It is not possible to predict how relations would evolve between the select committee and the Government. Much would turn upon the personalities involved and the attitude of the Foreign Office. Meanwhile I travel hopefully.

Secondly, the proposal concentrates upon an area of Community policy where there is a clear link between the Government and Westminster. In Mrs Thatcher's words it touches upon "sovereign governments, each answerable to their national parliaments". It does not raise the issue of

relations with British members of the European Parliament at Strasbourg and the multi-national groupings to which they belong. Thirdly, it offers Westminster the chance to have a more measured approach to Community affairs. Divisions within the parties over EEC issues should not spike debate and decision. Select committee procedure is well able to adapt to such divisions. The consensual approach, characteristic of select committees, would assist the House and the executive in judging where the balance of national interest lay in any EEC issue.



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Ultimately, however, the influence of the committee would be related to the reputation it secured in the House and the preparedness of the executive to request its cooperation and approval as an integral part of "sovereign government responding to a national parliament".

There is no prospect of a standing order giving the select committee authority over the executive. It would acquire influence proportional to the quality of its advocacy. It would be in a natural parliamentary tradition that such a committee should evolve from the work of the existing European legislation committee.

A fully developed European select committee with broad powers and a powerful membership could become highly important in Westminster's judgement of Community affairs. It would indicate that Parliament was prepared to reform its procedures in order to fulfil its traditional role of being an arbiter of government.

With 1992 in prospect, politicians are exhorting industry and commerce to mend their ways. It would be gratifying if Westminster could be persuaded to practise just a fraction of that institutional reform it so generously preaches to others. The author is Conservative MP for Shropshire North.

Commentary • WOODROW WYATT

## Balking over the Balts

Mr Gorbachev has shed some light on the Baltic states. Soviet citizens are now partly aware of the horrors of mass deportations, imprisonment, judicial murders and deaths in custody. The most suspicious of the Tsars never slaughtered and imprisoned on the scale of Stalin, who may have eliminated as many as 50 million of his subjects. Stalin's successors continued to be inordinately repressive. It was not until Gorbachev's arrival that there was hope of Russia moving towards something akin to a civilized society.

But Gorbachev has not repudiated one of Stalin's blackest crimes: nor does he acknowledge that it was a crime. On August 23, 1939, the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed. Among other provisions, Hitler gave Stalin the go-ahead to annex the Baltic states. Soviet troops seized them in June 1940 and began a process of mass murder, imprisonment and deportation to Siberia to stifle national resistance. During the interregnum when Hitler occupied the Baltic states the inhabitants suffered again, and when Stalin came back their sufferings were redoubled.

Hundreds of thousands from these tiny countries have been murdered or died after being deported. Since the war their native languages have been given second place to Russian. Unrelenting attacks have been made to wipe out the national cultures. Hundreds of thousands of Russian workers have been imported to "Russify" the Baltic states and shift the balance of population. In Estonia nearly 40

per cent of the inhabitants are now Russian. In Latvia almost half, and in Lithuania more than 20 per cent are Russian newcomers. Still these brave peoples, very much part of Western European culture, fight to resist assimilation.

Though until 1910 they had been occupied by Russia from the 18th century they had kept more or less distinct their languages, schools, legal systems and religions (Latvia and Estonia, Protestant Lutheran; Lithuania, Roman Catholic). Between the wars the three once again independent states were highly prosperous.

Despite the terrible things done to them, the standard of living remains higher than in the Soviet Union, which is one reason why Russians given preference in housing and everything else, like to move in. Their peoples have retained the North-west European work ethic and entrepreneurial gifts, despite the blight of communist bureaucracy. But that does not compensate for the longing to be free, which even in Gorbachev's time has been mercilessly repressed.

A fortnight ago I went to a gathering of exiled Latvians and met a tall 28-year-old, Janis Barkans. He was deported to Sweden from Latvia last year after completing seven years of brutal treatment as a political prisoner. "We'll show you what Soviet power is," the guards leered. His weight fell to just over six stone. Once, after many days and nights of beatings, he was left for dead in a store room, awaiting disposal to the mortuary next morning. When the officials came to collect the

expected body it twitched and they let him live and torment. Others died of maltreatment.

Mr Barkans estimates that today there are some two hundred political prisoners in the Baltic states and throughout Russia five to six thousand. Perhaps it was the touch of *glasnost* which finally prompted the Soviet officials to deport, instead of extinguish him.

Britain, though, was urged to by Stalin when Russia involuntarily became our ally, has never recognized the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states; nor have most Western democracies. In our official view, the Soviet Union is there against international law as it was in Afghanistan. Mr Gorbachev blandly brushes this aside, continuing the Stalin pretence that the bogus 1940 referendums recording the normal Soviet near 100 per cent votes in favour of Soviet rule justifies the Russian occupation. Yet the results were inadvertently announced by the Tass London representative before the alleged voting was over. Now Mr Gorbachev says that the article in the Soviet constitution which allows any Soviet republic to secede is inoperative.

Some of the present uproar is due to Mr Gorbachev actually trying to strengthen central control by Moscow. Today the Supreme Soviet in Moscow may announce some relaxation of this but the Soviet occupation will still be illegal both internationally and in the terms of the Soviet constitution.

It is remarkable that the local puppet communist leaders share the nationalist feelings of their countrymen. It was astonishing

that even the Russian communist deputies in the Estonian parliament supported the Estonian nationalists in their demand to Moscow for much greater autonomy and in emphasizing the constitutional right to secede. The combined indigenous population of the Baltic states would now be approaching nine million if it had kept pace with Western European population trends since 1939. The Soviet slaughters and deportations have held it to less than six million. If there were genuine free referendums the vote for independence among the indigenous inhabitants would be almost 100 per cent and it seems that a majority of permanently resident immigrant Russians, having seen the attraction of a slightly freer economy, would vote the same way.

Mr Gorbachev must be fully aware of this. He is also aware that if, like the Pharaohs, he let the Israelite slaves go, other and bigger parts of the Soviet Union which have been much longer controlled by Moscow, on a more convincing legal basis, would want to set up shop for themselves, too. Practically, for some years to come, the Baltic states cannot expect much more than increasing economic autonomy under the suzerainty of Moscow and they will be lucky if they get that.

Mr Gorbachev wants to be known as just and democratic. When he is in London next month he should be asked why he still bases the legacy of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states on the cynical Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939 which all the Baltic states long to be annulled?

NOV 29

ON THIS DAY

1894

Korea, a country with its own culture and customs, has often been torn between the rival claims of Japan and China. After the war of 1894-95 it came under the control of Japan, which formally annexed it in 1910.

### The War in Korea

(From Our Correspondent)

TOKIO, OCT. 24

Nothing has surprised foreign observers more than the extraordinary secrecy in which the operation of this war have been successfully wrapped by the Japanese authorities. The movements of great masses of troops, the accumulation and transport of vast quantities of material, and all the other business incidental to the conduct of a campaign abroad have been kept entirely beyond the range of popular observation. At no time since the Korean imbroglio first assumed serious dimensions have the citizens of Tokyo been cognizant that anything unusual was happening. On one occasion 10,000 soldiers, with all their equipment, their artillery, their horses, their tents, their winter clothing, were carried by rail from the capital between dusk and dawn on three consecutive days without producing so much as a ripple of excitement on the tide of everyday life.

Chinese prisoners numbering about 700 have arrived in Japan, where the wounded are distributed among the principal cities so as to have access to the best hospital accommodation. It would be difficult to coax a civilian, less formidable-looking lot of men. They appear to have been collected from the highways and byways without any regard to age - some are in their teens,

others in their fifties - or any thought of physical capacity. In Japan they will have to divest themselves of the coat of grime that all the lower orders of the Middle Kingdom carry about with them, and their lives will doubtless undergo many changes for the better. In truth, nothing could exceed the humane and considerate treatment extended by the Japanese to their prisoners of war. The wounded are handled with the utmost tenderness, and cared for as zealously as though they were compatriots. This fact redounds to the credit of the Japanese, for they have had to witness shocking cruelties perpetrated by the Chinese on the battlefield. The Chinese take no prisoners. From dead, wounded, and vanquished allies they shear off the heads, mutilate them in various ways, and string them together by a rope passed through the mouth and gullet. The Japanese troops have seen these ghastly remnants of their comrades. A barrel full of them was found after the fight at Ping Yang, and among the horrible trophies was the head of a young officer who had fallen wounded in a fort evacuated by General Oshima's men. The lad's father commanded the Akagi Kan, and was killed in the naval fight of September 17. News of the naval officer's death necessarily came to his widow's ears, but they have not yet told her of her son's fate, and every day she goes to the temple to pray for the recovery of her boy, whom she believes to be lying wounded in hospital. Field-Marshal Yamagata, Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Korea, has warned his men that they had better not be taken alive by the Chinese, but the warning is accompanied by an exhortation to behave towards captives and wounded with the utmost humanity, and to the honour of the troops they appear to observe the exhortation implicitly.





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## EXCLUDING ARAFAT

Last March Al Fatah, the "moderate" wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization which owes allegiance to Mr Yasser Arafat, acknowledged placing a car-bomb near a hotel in Jerusalem with intent to kill the visiting US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz. This week Mr Shultz has been prepared to face almost universal criticism for refusing the PLO leader the US visa he needed in order to address the United Nations in New York.

The ground for the decision is that Mr Arafat personally "knows of, condones and lends support to" acts of terrorism. No known Arab proverb points out the unwisdom of assassination attempts on those with whom you must ultimately deal should they survive. The PLO might consider adding one to the canon.

The US has, formally, a legal case. It has always reserved, and exerted, the right to make exceptions on the ground of national security to the 1947 Headquarters Agreement between the US and the UN, under which the US is committed to place no "impediment to transit" to people involved in UN official business.

The UN has acquiesced, this decade, in visa denials to Iranians alleged by the US to have been involved in the siege of the US embassy in Tehran. In this instance, however, the US has to contend with the fact that Mr Arafat was granted a visa in 1974 — only two years after the PLO bomb attack on Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's "foreign minister", was granted a visa last week. The US case rests on arguing either that Mr Arafat has become a terrorist since 1974; or, as US officials contend, that the US takes terrorism more seriously now than it did then.

The legal arguments will now be rehearsed in the UN's committee on relations with the host country. If the PLO and its supporters follow the precedent set by their successful recent action to prevent the closure by the US of the PLO mission to the UN, they may also bring suit in a New York federal court. The more abiding issue is that Mr Shultz's decision, to cite that French nineteenth-century architect M. Talleyrand, "was worse than a crime; it was a mistake".

It is a mistake both on the high ground and the low ground of US diplomacy. On the high ground, it breaches the spirit, if not the letter, of the commitments given by the United States to the United Nations when it was invited to make New York its home. It has irritated US friends and allies, in Europe as well as the Middle East. It will weaken US prestige and

authority as arbitrator in future attempts to bring peace to the region, just as the margin for manoeuvre seemed fractionally to have widened in the wake of the PLO's Algiers declaration.

Unless the UN General Assembly finds the votes (and the money) to transfer the Palestine debate to Geneva, it will deprive the world of an opportunity to judge, from Mr Arafat's own words, the sincerity of his commitment to a peaceful solution which renounces terrorism. This month's Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers declared a Palestinian state and obliquely acknowledged Israel's right to exist by accepting UN Resolution 242 as the basis for a peace conference. Precisely because of the ambiguities in the PNC statements, it would have been useful to hear Mr Arafat further.

On a less elevated level, it was also a miscalculation. Mr Arafat would doubtless have used the occasion to increase the tally of states which recognize the disembodied entity which is "Palestine". But the US has augmented, rather than denied, Mr Arafat's access to the "oxygen of publicity".

He might have asked the General Assembly to grant Palestine UN membership. But the General Assembly has no such authority. Under article 4 of the UN Charter the Security Council, in which the US exercises veto power, must recommend admission to the UN to the General Assembly before it can vote on the application.

Appearance at the UN General Assembly does, of course, convey a degree of legitimacy on the speaker. Mr Shultz was under heavy domestic pressure, by no means all of it from the Jewish lobby, to deny this to Mr Arafat. Americans do not forget that Mr Arafat's last appearance was followed by the General Assembly resolution of 1975 equating Zionism with racism.

A triumph for Mr Arafat at the UN would almost certainly have hardened opinion in the US Congress against resuming US funding for the UN: more than 50 US senators of both parties, including Mr Bush's deputy, Mr Dan Quayle, petitioned Mr Shultz to refuse the visa.

Mr Arafat may well be to the US Administration what Mr Gerry Adams is to the British Government: a man of violence for whom the presumptions in favour of freedom of speech may be suspended. These are not, in the final analysis, arguments which should have weighed most heavily with Mr Shultz. The decision harms both the image and the strategic interests of the United States.

## A BLOW FROM BELGIUM

The Belgian Cabinet's decision to consider and refuse Britain's request for the extradition of Mr Patrick Ryan falls well below the level of co-operation expected from a Nato ally and EEC partner. It is pusillanimous, self-interested and a setback to a united European front against terrorism.

Mr Ryan, a former priest, was arrested by the Belgian police last June after a raid on a house which was found to contain explosives and false documents. While he was held in Brussels on forged passport charges, the British police began extradition proceedings, specifying four alleged offences, including conspiracy to commit murder and the illegal possession of explosives.

The Belgians have tried to rationalize their decision. Earlier this month, they turned down his appeal for political asylum. After that, they say, there were only two courses open to them. One was to comply with the British request for extradition; the other was to expel him.

Extradition was ruled out by the Cabinet after it heard judicial opinion that the case against Mr Ryan was not strong enough. Differences between the laws of the two countries were to blame.

Both are party to the 1977 European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism which seeks to remove all political defence from terrorist crimes. But neither has so far ratified the extradition agreement which was reached by the Council of Europe 31 years ago, and which removes the need for a *prima facie* case to be proved against the person concerned. It is only since the Criminal Justice Act 1988 that Britain has been in a position to do so.

What all this adds up to, according to Belgium, is that the extradition of Mr Ryan depended finally on a 1901 bilateral treaty between London and Brussels. Though updated twice since then, this makes no mention of terrorist offences. The charges brought by the British police against Mr Ryan were not precise enough to satisfy Belgian requirements.

Why then did the decision need to go to the Belgian Cabinet? When decisions are reached in political forums the reasoning is likely to be political. There was at least sufficient flexibility for the Government to have decided either way. The assumption must be that, faced by the prospect of IRA reprisals after Mr Ryan's death on hunger-strike, the Belgians chose the apparently softer path. They lamentably failed to abide by the spirit of the anti-terrorist agreements they have signed.

British intelligence has shown an interest in Mr Ryan since the early 1970s. He was then suspected of being a leading figure in the IRA's contacts with Colonel Gaddafi of Libya. More recently he is believed to have acted as the organization's "paymaster" on the Continent.

Mr Ryan is innocent until proved guilty. If the reverse were held to be true, Belgium's legal hesitancy would be easier to understand. But the Brussels government was being asked to return him to a code of justice which is at least equal to its own.

The British police and courts, with the support of the British media, laboured hard to locate those accused after the Heysel Stadium riots in Brussels three years ago — and to ensure that they returned to face their trial. They can now feel badly let down.

## Poverty in Africa

From the *Chairman of Population Concern*

Sir, In his article (Spectrum, November 21) on the environmental crisis in sub-Saharan Africa, Alan Hamilton points out that 25 years ago the continent was self-sufficient in food, whereas today 100 million Africans are dependent on imported grain; that there are too many cattle grazing the land, which is deteriorating into desert; and that the tree cover is being stripped at a disastrous rate. He also observes that Africa has the highest population growth of any major region in the world.

It is this last point which is so often ignored. With the population of the continent as a whole doubling every 24 years, the situation can only get worse.

Until the world tackles this problem of unrestricted population growth, which is the root cause of the environmental crisis and elsewhere, we are all guilty, like Nero, of fiddling while Rome burns.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON, Chairman,  
Population Concern,  
231 Tottenham Court Road, W1,  
November 23.

## Ward courtesies

From Dr R. J. A. Connett

Sir, As a recent guest at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, I would like to suggest from experience a simple solution of the question of whether patients should be addressed by first name or surname.

As I was being admitted to the ward, a nurse asked me which I preferred. The answer was then written on my notes and could easily be consulted by medical staff.

The customer always knows best.  
Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD J. A. CONNETT,  
12 Heath Road,  
Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge,  
November 22.

From Miss Alison Grady  
Sir, My mother, when in her mid-eighties, once said with great sadness, "Nobody ever calls me Dorothy now". Therefore I rejoice when others, and particularly those younger than myself, address me, not as a part of my family but by my own first name.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISON GRADY,  
78 Ridge Road, N21.

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own homes and wonder whether the cost of guaranteeing warmth, comfort, security, health-care and mitigation of loneliness on a one-to-one basis has been properly thought through and estimated.

Care in the community may prove to be a far more expensive exercise per capita. Most residential care and nursing homes provide care for a week at little more than the cost of one night in a major London hotel. For those who do need to go into care and require DHSS income support, its level is such that unless "top up" can be provided from alternative sources, choice is severely limited.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILLIPS (President),  
Elderly Accommodation Council,  
1 Durward House,  
31 Kensington Court, W2.

Yours faithfully,  
C. M. S. WHITEHEAD,  
1 Lansdowne Crescent,  
Edinburgh.

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## Wardship issue in Children Bill

From Mr Jeremy Posnansky

Sir, In June, 1987, arising from the events then current in Cleveland, the Secretary of State for Social Services ordered a statutory inquiry, which he invited Lord Justice Butler-Sloss to chair. Now, less than six months after receiving the report of that inquiry, the Government is proposing in the Children Bill (draft, November 25) that Parliament should ignore one of the report's key recommendations.

The report drew attention to the many advantages of wardship proceedings in matters relating to the care of children. In the context of the cases which arose in Cleveland, wardship had been "an invaluable procedure to enable extremely difficult, complex, and sensitive issues to be fully considered and adjudicated upon."

More generally, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss said in the report: "Wardship has an ethos which is recognised by those who use and are engaged in the jurisdiction. We see wardship having a role to play in care proceedings in the future."

The Bill contains provisions which, if enacted, would largely prevent local authorities from instituting wardship proceedings in respect of children for whom they have statutory responsibility. This is a retrograde step.

It is very much to be hoped that this part of the Bill will not survive its passage through Parliament. If, however, it does survive, it is essential that the rules of court which will be drawn up by the Lord Chancellor in relation to the distribution of cases between the different courts (magistrates' court, county court, and High Court) will recognise and provide for the Family Division of the High Court to continue to exercise its jurisdiction in relation to the care of children on a sufficient scale.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY POSNANSKY,  
22 Old Buildings,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,  
November 25.

Yours faithfully,  
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## Concern at care for schizophrenics

From the Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Board

Sir, Your leading article, "The savage sickness" (November 25), highlights the plight of the mentally ill and does a great service for this group of people whose needs are too often ignored or simply go unanswered. The fact that the Prince of Wales has become patron of Sane (the new charity established to help sufferers from schizophrenia) is a major step forward since he has conferred a measure of respectability on a section of society which has always been stigmatised.

Nevertheless, the rapid declassification of patients over the last few years from the large mental hospitals back into communities who have demonstrably displayed either a lack of community care and/or resources, has actually helped to increase the need for specially reserved for the mentally ill.

My own agency, the Jewish Welfare Board, is trying to develop adequate community-based services for members of the Jewish faith being discharged back to the outside world. Too often these have occurred with little advance notice and inadequate time to prepare the patients for the rigours of living in a very competitive environment.

It would be comforting for organizations such as ours to know that the psychiatric hospital was still able to assist should its

expertise and, dare I say, one of its beds be required. The reality for too many individuals is that, with the closing down of many of the catchment-area psychiatric hospitals, the alternative is frequently the cardboard box "shanty town" which nightly appears under the arches at Charing Cross and similar places up and down the country.



## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## It's an unfunny thing

Some situation comedies have everyday characters, others mould-breaking oddities such as Hancock or Septoe. (Some, like Bread, have a mixture of the two.) The situations also can be either familiar or extraordinary. But the programmes by tradition have the tedious convention that at least something is comic.

No more. John Esmonde and Bob Larbey, who in their time have written some very funny scenes for such programmes as *The Good Life* and *Ever Decreasing Circles*, celebrated the return of *Brash Strokes* (BBC1) by taking their unfunny everyday hero, Jackie (Karl Howman) and his unfunny everyday fiancée Sandra (Jackie Lye), and placing them with the oddity Elmo (Lew Lewis) in a situation that was familiar, unfamiliar and stubbornly unfunny.

Although the writers had taken the precaution of telling the *Radio Times* that they did not like putting jokes in their comedy, they could not help themselves from starting with quite a funny gag. The organ music announcing another episode in Jackie's long-running marriage saga ground to a halt and the vicar was rushed to hospital with appendicitis before he could marry the couple. This threat of humour was soon extinguished, and the naturally funny figure of Lew Lewis was reduced to throwing confetti, in a reception that contained less amusing dialogue and incident than any wedding I have attended.

Perhaps *Brash Strokes* is the future in this new television era, with everything having a base of bland soap opera with a mere squeeze of genuine drama, comedy or news to indicate the genre. BBC2's *Perfect Strangers*, an import from America, certainly tried hard to be funny. Its humour is rather an odd mixture of the old and the new. The basic joke is that discredited old chestnut, the foreigner with a funny accent, but to meet the demands of a more racially sensitive culture the foreigner (Bronson Pinchot) comes from an imaginary country and stumbles across some truths amidst his distorted phonemes.

Andrew Hislop

John Russell Taylor on the pros and cons of Julian Schnabel: there is substance beneath the artist's self-conscious joking

## Crockery, mockery and talent

## GALLERIES

Julian Schnabel  
Waddington

Warhol-Basquiat  
Collaborations  
Mayor Rowan/ Mayor/  
David Grob

Glenn Sujo  
Benjamin Rhodes

Richard Deacon  
Whitechapel

Glynn Williams  
Bernard Jacobson

Sometimes one gets bored with even trying to see the emperor's new clothes. I have felt like that several times of late in relation to Julian Schnabel. I felt it with his last major show in New York, and feel it again with about half of the show of recent works which fills nearly three of the four Waddington galleries (until December 23).

Apparently Schnabel has somewhere come upon a cache of unimportant French engravings — portraits, rococo scenes of amorous dalliance and such. He has stuck one each in the centre of a series of large canvases, pasted coarse fabric round the edge of the canvas to suggest some kind of mount, and then quickly splashed paint on to the resultant surface and scribbled "La banana e buona", graffiti-like, across it.

The idea is not even amusing, and is certainly not profound. Nor is the overall result, even when installed in rather grand painted and gilded frames, notably agreeable to look at. It seems like a deliberate attempt to find out how much (or how little) the picture-buying public can be intimidated into accepting.

The rest of the pictures in the show are as much a batch as the first, presumably also painted over quite a short period. But here there is an idea which is quite diverting and maybe something more. We all know that Schnabel used to be famed principally for sticking fragments of broken crockery all over his paint surfaces. Now he has gone one better by covering the surface with broken pots first, then painting on top of it.

The pictures are all portraits, and they are given an elusive dimensional quality by the way that the paint goes over and under the excrescences: at a distance the image comes together rather as a mosaic does. If the result is not exactly a collection of master-works, it does at least serve to remind us that inside the tremendous commercial success and media presence of Schnabel, there may actually be a talented painter struggling to get out.

The word graffiti brings to mind the New York sensation of a few years back, the ill-fated Jean-Michel Basquiat. He began as literally a graffiti artist, and enjoyed a well-publicized rags-to-riches story when he was dis-

covered and instantly taken up by some of the snootiest and most expensive galleries in New York. Then he was almost immediately dropped and forgotten. Only now that he is safely dead (aged 27) does he reappear, in the rather sketchily defined company of another recently-dead artist, Andy Warhol. The results of their alleged collaboration occupy no fewer than three West End galleries until January 21.

The paintings are admittedly big. They look almost entirely like unadulterated Basquiat, though there are two or three which indicate how the "collaboration" may have gone. In those you can see, buried somewhere in the overlying paint, a sort of silk-screened photograph (of a motorbike, an Olympic symbol, a dog) which Warhol might have selected and got one of his assistants to put on canvas. From then on, Basquiat presumably did what a graffiti artist is supposed to do: sprayed and scribbled on top.

There is a certain irony in the idea of Warhol's being reduced to the status of the mechanical poster-image in which he found much of his later inspiration. But otherwise, if you saw one of these works flapping past on the side of a New York subway train, you would probably feel little temptation to arrest it for further study.



Mosaic effect: "Joe", 1988, in oil, plates and bonds on wood, by Julian Schnabel, at Waddington Galleries

Glenn Sujo is, needless to say, a much less known painter, but if there were any justice in the world it would not be so. His latest works, on show at the Benjamin Rhodes Gallery until the end of the week, show a new departure. He has always been interested in history, his own and that of the world, and has liked to reflect on it in intricate and many-layered images. This time Italy, and Rome

in particular, seems to have been the catalyst. The major works in the series called "Imaginarium" are CinemaScope-shaped, and predominantly dark in tone, with hellish fires glowing through.

The key work is probably "Bramante had a Dream of Rome Rebuilt", which shows the figure of the architect contemplating chaos and, no doubt, willing it to rearrange itself into something

nearer an ideal order. If one may judge by the tone of the other paintings, order will be achieved only by great travail and the grinding of dark satanic mills.

There are also drawings of great beauty in which Sujo works out the details of the architecture he is going subsequently to fragment and reconstitute and bury and resurrect. The paintings are extremely painterly and it is saying a

lot that he can accommodate the ghosts of Bramante and Michelangelo flitting through without our feeling any too terrible sense of disproportion.

As in evidence this week are sculptures. As this year's Turner Prize is awarded to a sculptor, last year's prize winner, Richard Deacon, has a major show opening at the Waddington Art Gallery (until Jan 22). This is given over entirely to work of last year and this. Deacon is one of those artists with a very decided personal vision and an unmistakable vision in his own. He makes little attempt to woo with attractive text, serious blandishments director, kind. Many of his works are, in fact, like glass, indefinable sections, recovered from some sunken ocean liner, probably the engine-room.

These sculptures should satisfy the requirements of anybody who seeks to measure achievement in the arts by man-hours spent: sheer visible workmanship, materials (zinc, laminated linoleum, rigid PVC and even one alarming occasion, m are bent to the maker's will, the sort of agonized purport at which usually reserved for national modifications to the design, they are. Deacon's work is the least pretty, but it is minister ably powerful and fit to more one's dreams.

Glynn Williams is a much in the traditional sculptor, though much the same generation. He carves in stone, and is preoccupied almost entirely with the human figure. In his latest show, Bernard Jacobson until January, one is more likely to be reminded of early Epstein or Frank Dobson than of anything more trendy. EC

This probably makes him Post-Modernist, if you seek justification by label. But there is need for a label to be struck by the force of the agonized "Pietà", the impact curiously intensified by the brusque way the figure holding the body is chopped off mid-chest and just above the elbow. The variations on the man doing push-ups called "Stone Bridge" are also deeply satisfying from all angles. Even after Moore, carving is still alive and well, and Glynn Williams is there to prove it.

## Signs of hope as the direction changes

## DANCE

Arden Court  
Sadler's Wells

London Contemporary Dance Theatre has started its London season with a new Royal patron, the Duke of York, and an honorary CBE for its retiring director, Robert Cohan. It is richly deserved for his contributions to founding and shaping the company, even if much re-thinking will be needed from his successor

(another American, Dan Waggoner) to lead the company out of its recent stagnation.

The opening programme demonstrated the assets and problems Waggoner will inherit. The last third of the evening shows the dancers at their joyous best in a new production, Paul Taylor's *Arden Court*. Set to extracts from five of William Boyce's dances, this suite of dances matches the music's baroque exuberance.

The six men have most of the action. They start and end the ballet with a flourish of athleticism. There is a brilliantly extrovert solo for Julian Moss. Patrick

Harding-Birmer, Michael Small and Andrew Robinson dance varied duets with respectively Celia Hulton, Anne Went and Tracey Fitzgerald which are in turn tenderly ardent, brightly playful, and innocently trusting. Darshan Singh Bhuller and Paul Liburd share a playful sequence that has a lot of humour as well as virtuosity.

Gene Moore's designs and Jennifer Tipton's lighting locate the action in a dappled forest of ardent longings. This production restores the spirits after a dim start to the evening.

Cohan's policy of giving opportunities to would-be chore-

graphers is admirable, but goes badly wrong when nobody is prepared to be selective about what actually goes into the repertoire. Jonathan Lunn's *Shift* is 20 minutes of choreographic doodling with six male bodies. Bhuller's *Giant Steps* is longer and more pretentious, therefore worse.

Only Aletta Collins in *Stand by Your Man* makes a real theatrical point, about men's behaviour to women, cogently and comically. Even if the best jokes are borrowed from Pina Bausch, at least Collins has a way with movement.

John Percival

## Tall tale of a wonderful wolf

## PARIS THEATRE

Réveille-toi,  
Philadelphie!  
La Colline

A wolf, *lupus lupus not homo Romeo*, is the unseen hero of François Billeloux's new play *Réveille-toi, Philadelphie!* (Wake up, Philadelphie!), directed by Jorge Lavelli at his new national theatre, La Colline, Philadelphie, as she put it, "nine-years-old, nearly 12". She lives with her widowed but not womanless father, in a large house whose constantly metamorphosing architecture bleeds mystically into the vegetal tangle of Louis Bercut's enchanted forest design.

Philadelphie says she is in love with a wolf who is now travelling across the countryside to claim his bride. And, a wolf is indeed reported to be making a bee-line for her neck of the woods, leaving the customary trail of terror and slightly chewed sheep.

As mayor, Philadelphie's father is asked to deal with the beast. Philadelphie threatens that if he takes his gun, she will age one year for every hour he is away. Velt returns home three days later to find his offspring has become a pubescent 83-year-old.

Her Scandinavian nursemaid demands hush money. The local doctor reverts to the womb. Velt's libidinous mistress starts crawling around on all fours. Velt figures out that if the ageing process can be started up again, a "natural"



Old and yet young: Denise Gence death will put them all out of their misery. The sagely infantile Philadelphie begins to see adults in a new light.

All the while, the wolf is still at large. By twists and turns that are both funny and frightening, the invisible animal eventually meets his betrothed, loses his skin but not, we are led to imagine, his life. Just as incredulity reaches outright absurdity, Billeloux wisely supplies a relatively happy ending, which finds the rejuvenated Philadelphie up a chimney.

It is a fabulous metaphysical fairy-tale for grown-ups, leavened with myth, magically bound together with 20th century cryptic poetic prose.

Lavelli's exaggerated, almost pantomime direction heightens the play's dreamlike, nursery rhyme qualities. Not evident in the text, Lavelli develops amusing visual references to Red Riding Hood.

Diane Hill

## CORRECTION

● The correct name of the actor in the photograph accompanying yesterday's review of the Check by Jowl production of *The Tempest* is Michael Jenn, not Stephen Jenn as stated.

## Mystical richness

## CONCERTS

Philharmonia/  
Hughes  
Festival Hall

Paul Patterson's *Stabat Mater* fits comfortably into a long tradition of English sacred music. Richly and expertly expressive of its text without being histrionic, passionate but civilized, it ultimately strives for a regenerative, life-enhancing quality, rather than attempting to shatter traditions or unsettle cherished beliefs.

That suggests something reassuringly retrospective, and certain echoes in the writing reinforce that feeling. Elgar's demons hover noticeably over some of the angrier choral passages, and there are also shadows of Britten and Walton.

However, the work is too well crafted to sound synthetic. Some of the choral writing, particularly

the deep unaccompanied harmonies of the central section, which gradually drifts away from classic part-song homophony and towards quasi-liturgical chanting — is superbly conceived, and the emergence out of grief of the final blaze of triumphant sound is done without a hint of forced melodrama. However, it is Patterson's assured handling of orchestral colour, particularly his floating of poignant oboe, horn or string lines against slow harmonies, that gives the work its mystical quality.

Originally written two years ago for the Huddersfield Choral Society's 150th anniversary, the *Stabat Mater* was given its first London performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, directed by Owain Arwel Hughes. The Chorus's control in the unaccompanied *placido* passage was especially fine. Linda Finnegan sang the mezzo-soprano solo with feeling, though her vibrato widened alarmingly at times.

Richard Morrison

most. At any given moment its momentum is either suspended in a deliciously lazy immobility or powered on with a primeval energy. This performance captured the essential contrast perfectly, helped by Abbado's unerring ear for orchestral detail. Soloists were far more than merely reliable; Paul Edmund-Davies gave a stunning sequence of *romances* on the flute, while the uncredited cor anglais player also thoroughly deserved his rise at the end.

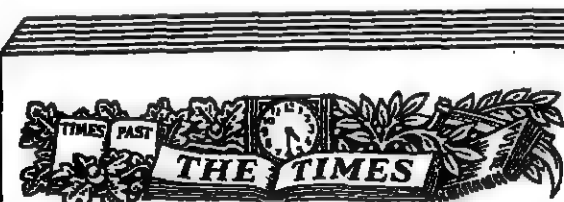
One of the LSO chorus's contributions, in the interlude leading to the second scene was a little shaky, but they contributed much to the distinction of this reading, with singing that was sturdy or delicate as required. The blend of sound was well rounded, the brass noticeably careful in avoiding vulgarity. In its vividness this was an Italian's *Daphnis*, to be sure, but in its sensitivity it was also a Frenchman's.

Stephen Pettitt

LSO/Abbado  
Barbican Hall

Since he relinquished his post as the London Symphony Orchestra's music director, whenever Claudio Abbado appears with his former charges one can sense an atmosphere of unusual intensity. This concert, dedicated to the memory of the LSO's former principal tuba player, John Fletcher, who died tragically young last year, was just such an instance. Though it began with the ever passionate, ever communicative cello playing of Mstislav Rostropovich in Prokofiev's *Sinfonia Concertante* Op 125, there was no doubt that the main event of the evening was Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloe*.

Abbado and the LSO brought to this wonderful work a rare combination of maturity and freshness, as well as a remarkable degree of technical accomplish-



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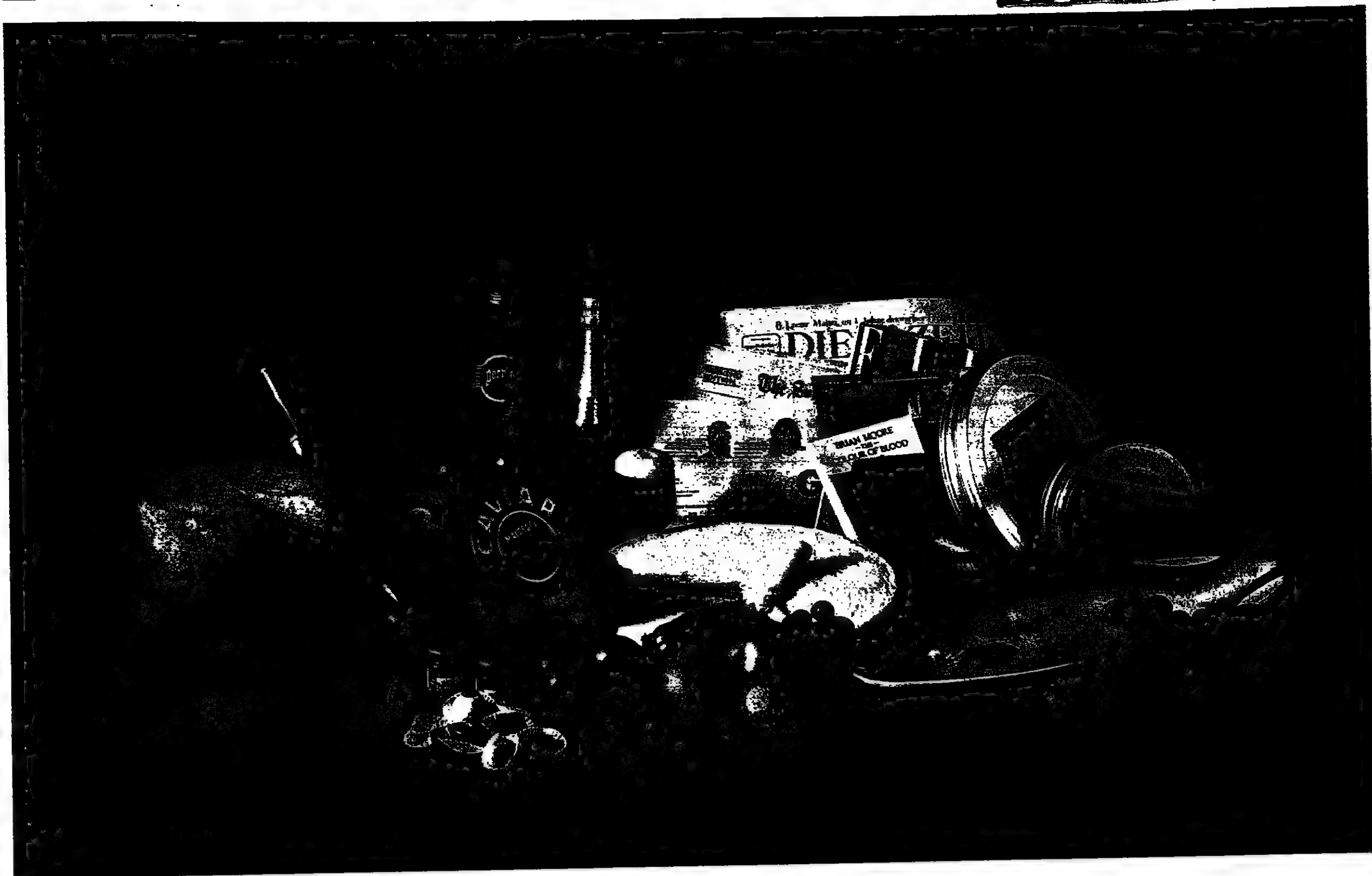
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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Hay's expands after 12.5% rise to £29m

Hay's, the business services group gearing up for a flotation on the stock market, lifted pre-tax profits by 12.5 per cent to £29.6 million for the 12 months to the end of June. The company, which was bought from the Kuwait Investment Office by its management for £255 million in October last year, is expanding its distribution business by acquiring Bucks Group of Derbyshire, which specializes in the transport of shop fittings. Bucks has sales of £15 million and a network of 10 regional depots.

Last year Hay's distribution business showed a 41 per cent improvement in profits at the operating level to £17 million. Its specialist staff recruitment agencies division saw profits rise by 58 per cent to £15.2 million while its office support services increased profits from £3.1 million to £4.3 million.

## Shaw up 30% to £535,000

Arthur Shaw, the USM-quoted designer and manufacturer of security fittings for windows, increased pre-tax profits by 30 per cent to £535,000 for the first half of this year. Turnover rose 25 per cent to £6.2 million. Earnings per share increased 10.5 per cent to 4.75p. The interim dividend was 1.1p.

## Record for Vibroplant

Vibroplant, the Yorkshire plant hire group, made record interim pre-tax profits of £5.51 million, a rise of 45 per cent. Turnover was up 51 per cent at nearly £26 million, with earnings per share showing a 33 per cent improvement at 8.99p. The interim dividend was 1.02p, a rise of 20 per cent.

## Carlsberg warning

Carlsberg, the Danish brewing group, expects to maintain a "satisfactory level of earnings" but says increased competition may require greater investment in marketing that could hit short-term results.

Net profits rose by 23 per cent to DKK540 million (£43.9 million) in the year to September 30, with turnover up by more than 9 per cent to DKK890 million; two thirds of this increase came from acquisitions. Group investment in plant and equipment was a record DKK1.1 billion in 1987-88, the company said in Copenhagen.

## Hewetson leaps 134%

Hewetson, the building sub-contractor, lifted pre-tax profits by 134 per cent to £815,000 in the first six months. The results reflect contributions from two acquisitions. Turnover was up 57 per cent at £10.6 million and earnings per share show a 65 per cent rise to 6.26p. Interim dividend was 1.25p.

## Bejam attacks Iceland profit

Profits per square foot at Bejam Group, the retailer under a £250 million hostile attack by its rival, Iceland Frozen Foods, are 82 per cent better than Iceland's, the company claims. Bejam says Iceland's volume growth is due to regional factors and its profits per square foot have been static.

## BET can grow even bigger by caring about the little things

Out of mundane activities are great industrial empires built. The industrial services business is one of life's decidedly 'unglamorous' activities.

Employees expect floors and windows to be washed, want clean towels in lavatories, waste to disappear and regard security as tiresome.

Research shows that up to 30 per cent of all services supplied to industry are capable of being contracted out. In the United States, always regarded as being up to 10 years ahead of Britain, only 7 per cent of such services are contracted out.

In Britain, where contracting out is in vogue, only 4 per cent is, while on the continent of Europe, the proportion falls to 2 per cent.

All of this suggests a potentially enormous untapped market for BET, one of the leaders in an industry where the competition is highly fragmented.

Evidence of the scope for organic growth can be found in the interim results.

Operating profits jumped 36 per cent in the core businesses — half of which was from organic growth.

The picture is obscured by the hectic pace at which BET has been restructuring itself.

The first half saw the divestment of the last of its non-core businesses, including Rediffusion Simulation for £151 million and Argus Press for £207 million.

During the same period, it also made no fewer than 38 acquisitions for £147 million.

As a result, group gearing fell to 30 per cent of capital level of just under 50 per cent.

However, gearing is unlikely to remain at this level

for long, as BET pursues its strategy of mopping up small contractors, in much the same way as Sainsbury and Tesco mopped up the food retailers in the 1960s on the road to becoming the dominant national chains they are today.

The main difference seems to be that BET has no real competition.

The field is clear — for the time being at any rate.

In the full year, BET should make pre-tax profits of about £260 million, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of about nine — good value.

## NSM

NSM, the remodelled Burnett & Hallamshire, has come a long way since it lost almost £126 million in 1984-85.

Pre-tax profits of £4.2 million in the six months to the end of September contrasted with a loss of £1.8 million last time and £29 million for the last financial year, both recorded before Mr David McErlain's Anglo United injected its coal mining assets into NSM in return for a hefty stake.

However, the new management team at NSM cannot claim to be out of the woods yet. There remains the Anglo stake, which has already been diluted from 31 per cent to 26 per cent with the September purchase of the Bison building products group.

This must, under Stock Exchange regulations, fall to below 25 per cent of Anglo's net assets from its current level of just under 50 per cent.

Although this could be done through acquisitions by either party, the remote possibility of

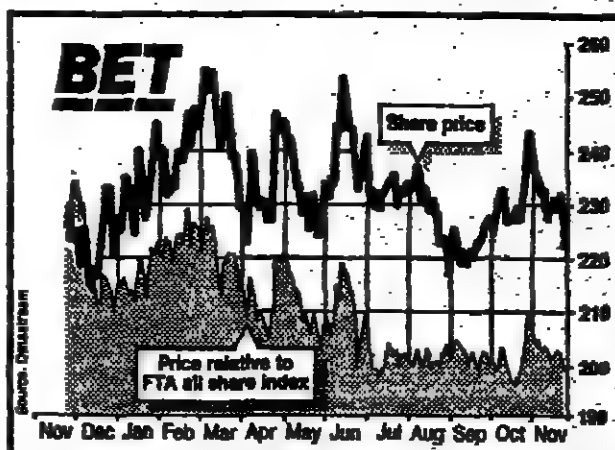
even assuming that at just 17 per cent this year. At present, there is little to justify this rating.

Johnson & Firth Brown

In 1983, Johnson & Firth Brown, the engineering group, had a turnover of £102 million, losses of £12 million — including £8.9 million from Sheffield Forgemasters — and long-term borrowings of £32.8 million. Six years later, the contrast could not be more stark. The group has sold the last of its loss-making operations, made a pre-tax profit of £7.7 million on a turnover of £99 million and has long-term borrowings of £13 million.

Since the latest year-end, at September 30, it has banked a further £4.8 million, the proceeds from the sale of Sheffield Forgemasters and Greenings. A further £2 million is due on Sheffield Forgemasters, pending settlement of a product claim.

Nearly half of group turnover and profit last year came from the newly-formed Firth



a straight sale, once NSM's share price improves, continues to overhang the market.

NSM still has the residue of the heavy debts that crippled it in its former incarnation. These now stand at £50 million, or 1.5 times shareholders' funds, although the group is talking in terms of 60 per cent gearing by the year-end as its assets sale continues.

Already sold are the last of its less-profitable, deep coal mining business and the good ship Halham Venture, a drain on resources for some years now. Still to go are the South African operations and some properties, including a potential \$18 million-worth in California.

Meanwhile, there are plans to move into waste management and landfill and to add to Bison's product range. But Bison must remain vulnerable to a general downturn in the building industry cycle, while the coal mining side could be affected by the more competitive conditions likely to come with privatization of British Coal.

On forecast profits of £15 million this year, NSM stands on a pricey 10 times earnings,

## Johnson &amp; Firth Brown

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## Engineer doubles at halfway

By Martin Waller

Bromsgrove Industries, the acquisitive specialist engineer, has announced pre-tax profits more than doubled from £1.02 million to £2.22 million in the six months to end-September.

The organic growth rate was about 75 per cent, said Mr Bijan Sedghi, the chairman, with earnings per share up 58 per cent to 5.35p, reflecting the heavy acquisition programme. Contributions from purchases were "modest", partly because of their seasonal bias towards the second half.

An interim dividend of 1p is to be paid (0.65p). Bromsgrove is indicating a total for the year 30 per cent ahead from the 2.1p paid last time.

The new financial services division, added in May and expanded at the end of the first half with BRI Information Services, contributed £72,000 at the trading level.

## Herring in deal for surveyor

By Colin Narborough

Herring Son & Daw, the commercial property surveyor, has agreed to acquire James Barr & Son, the Glasgow chartered surveyor and leading Scottish rating practice, through a share issue.

The move is designed to strengthen its position ahead of the 1990 rate revaluation. The value of the initial share-and-cash purchase is £4 million, with a further payment dependent on James Barr's results next year.

Herring Son & Daw will inject the bulk of its Scottish business into James Barr, which will continue to trade under its present name.

Mr Nicholas Owen, chairman of Herring Son & Daw, said the expansion would give his company a strong presence in a fast-growing market.

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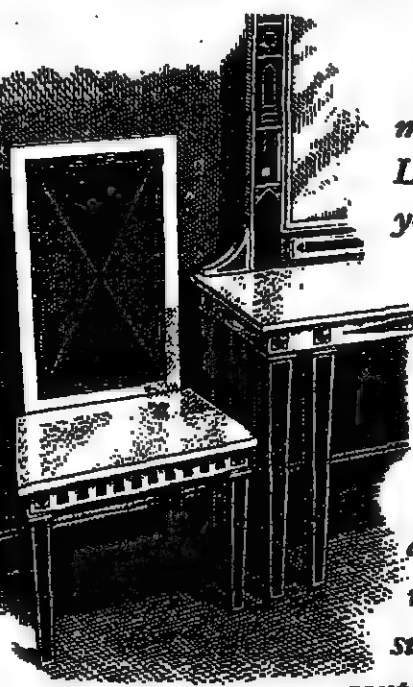
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# UB presses Royal Bank to give pledge of loyalty

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

United Biscuits is hoping for an answer by the end of this week to the request by Sir Hector Laing, its chairman, for a statement of loyalty from Royal Bank of Scotland, its main banker, in the event of a hostile takeover bid.

The bank is aware that if it decides not to give a commitment, UB - which has been a customer for half a century - is likely to take its banking business elsewhere. Sir Hector has made it clear that he regards loyalty as crucial.

Sir Hector asked Royal three weeks ago to give a commitment not to support a hostile bidder if a takeover attempt was ever made on

UB. Somewhat to UB's surprise, Royal has still not replied, although the subject may be discussed at the bank's board meeting this week. Sir Hector's action has highlighted a problem which is causing increasing worry to many bank customers.

UB asked Royal for the assurance after two cases when the bank helped to finance bids against its customers. Scottish & Newcastle Breweries broke relations with Royal when the bank supported a bid for the company by Elders IXL. William Collins ceased to bank there when Charterhouse, Royal's merchant banking arm, advised

News International in its bid for the publishing group.

Another case was the removal by Ranks Hovis McDougall of its business from Midland Bank when the bank failed to support the company. Midland had assured RHM that it would not help any hostile bid, but then supported the £1.7 billion bid by Goodman Fielder Wattie.

Sir Hector said: "There is a point of principle here. I expect my bank to give me the same loyalty that I have given to it over the last 40 years. Loyalty means not giving financial ammunition to others who want to bid. We have never made opposed take-

overs, but if we did and the target was a Royal Bank customer, we would not dream of asking Royal to finance the bid. We would hope the bank would stand back and support neither side."

But Mr Charles Winter, chief executive of Royal, insisted that there was nothing new in banks supporting bids against existing customers. "We will look at any bankable proposition. This has been the bank's policy since I joined it 40 years ago."

Royal also maintains that Charterhouse is free to make its own decisions about which customers to advise without interference from the bank.

## BET up by 31% despite changes

By Carol Ferguson

BET, supplier of cleaning, security and maintenance services to industry, reported a 31 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £120 million at the interim stage, despite the continuing process of restructuring.

The results were ahead of expectations, and the shares lost 1p to 221p in a weak market.

The fastest rate of organic growth was in the textile rental and home improvement services. Accounting for a quarter of profits, textile rental and washroom services, which includes the initial towed brand, grew by 28 per cent to £33 million, 85 per cent of which was organic. The highest organic growth rate in this area was in Britain where buoyant retailing and leisure markets helped the hotel and light workwear services.

Property and home improvement grew by 46 per cent to £22.6 million, also mainly from organic growth. Several non-core businesses were disposed of, the biggest being Rediffusion Simulation and Argus Press. Meanwhile, BET made 38 acquisitions in the half year, costing £147 million.

Sir Timothy Bevan, the chairman, said: "Our acquisitions have all been of support service companies. They have strong cash flow and customer bases, but low asset levels." He said that the average goodwill write-off was 80 per cent.

"Under UK conventions, this hits both sides of the gearing equation", he commented. Nevertheless, he said net borrowings were down to £180 million, and gearing was 30 per cent. This would be a temporary level, he added.

"The trend towards contracting out support services to specialists is accelerating and our growth demonstrates our strength in this market."

Earnings per share were up 14 per cent to 11.4p. The slower rate of earnings growth is a reflection both of the higher number of shares following the North American share issue and conversion of the Eurobonds last year, and a higher tax rate.

Sales rose 3 per cent to £1.1 billion. The interim dividend was raised by 17 per cent to 3.5p net. "This continues our policy of gradually reducing the disparity between the interim and final payments," Sir Timothy said.

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## Christmas stocking-up for Hanson's war chest

COMMENT David Brewerton

Lord Hanson is looking for a Christmas present from shareholders. On December 22, instead of popping across the road to do last minute shopping at Harrods, he will be asking shareholders to approve a strengthening of the war chest.

In the US, where leveraged bids and buy-outs are a penny, they do not limit through articles of association the amount which a company may borrow. Bankers define the limit, and there seems to be no limit at all as long as the interest rate is high enough. That is why they have "junk bonds" but we do not.

Over here, borrowing limits can be a pain, as Hanson has realized. The group, which has been a bit too quiet on the takeover front, has given up hope of its shares attracting a decent enough rating for them to be used as takeover currency. It recognizes that cash is likely to be king in the bid arena, but that in a world where KKR can put together bids in excess of \$20 billion, it is not in the running as a serious contender.

Hanson is sitting on a cash pile of probably £3 billion, but its borrowings are limited to about £6.5 billion by an article which says it can borrow only two-and-a-half times its capital and reserves. This severely cramps its prospective style, and the idea is to add back goodwill, which has been acquired in takeovers and subsequently written off, to the capital and reserves figure in order

to arrive at the borrowing limit. The effect of the change is to raise borrowing limits to around £11 billion.

That will enable Hanson to look with more than academic interest at some of the takeover prospects which still abound on both sides of the Atlantic. Lord Hanson believes that we have been in a sellers' market for the past year or two, and has taken full advantage of it with a string of disposals. We should now surmise that he now reckons a buyers' market may be just around the corner, and is fuelling up the takeover machine, ready for battle.

We may not have to wait too long, either, for action. Lord Hanson is not prepared to wait until the annual meeting takes place in January to seek the changes; he wants them next month. And that should be enough to send some shivers down a few chairmen's backbones, not least in the Allied-Lyons boardroom where they may soon have to face the fact that Alan Bond's key 11 per cent share stake might be passed to a proper bidder.

Meanwhile, analysts are polishing up their final estimates for Hanson's results for the year to September 30, none of which put Hanson shares on to a double-digit price/earnings ratio. If there is a lucrative acquisition in train, the shares will continue the outperformance of the market shown over the past half year. Rightly so.

### Share sale prescribed

Few of Underwoods' shareholders will argue with Boots over the 150p per share offer for their company, despite the 30p shortfall on the flotation price. The company was oversold by Morgan Grenfell at the peak of its persuasive powers when the presence on the Underwoods' board of a number of high-profile businessmen, such as Roger Seelig, offered a promise which was never delivered.

Boots, however, has to make Underwoods' branches really sweat if it is to cover the cost of financing the £41 million cash deal. According to Phillips & Drew retail analyst, Charles Nichols, Boots will have to generate nearly £40 per sq ft profit to wash its face, which is £10 per sq ft more than Boots earns in its current operations. The London bias of Underwoods will help, but Underwoods owns only one store freehold and Boots will have to pay rent, whereas the major part of its own chain is freehold.

This might be even tougher than convincing the Office of Fair Trading that buying out a competitor is not anti-competitive. Despite the chance of a counterbid, investors would be wise to liquidate their holdings in the market.

### Sterling's attractions

Nigel Lawson and the sheikhs of Arab have together prompted a further tightening of the screw on interest rates worldwide. Yesterday's rise in US prime rates was timed partly in response to the 1 per cent rise in UK rates on Friday, in the wake of October's gruesome trade figures, and partly on the calculation that an Opec agreement, no matter how fragile, is likely to give oil prices at least a temporary lift. However, although these provided the trigger, another rise in US rates has been on the cards for some time.

In the short term higher rates in the US must mean that the relative attraction of rates in London is diminished. But there may also be an unenviable benefit in the slightly longer term. If higher rates succeed in taking the pressure off the dollar foreign exchange markets will become more stable generally and attention will turn back from "safe havens", like the mark and the yen to high yielding currencies like sterling. Despite yesterday's restraining hand from the Bank of England, all the signs are Mr Lawson will not mind moderate strengthening of the pound. The problem may be to keep it moderate.

## GrandMet lifts stake in Pillsbury

Grand Metropolitan yesterday announced that about 85.3 per cent of the shares in Pillsbury, the US Burger King and Green Giant food group, had been tendered in response to its \$60-a-share offer.

This comes with the 84.6 per cent GrandMet had secured on November 18 - the previous expiration date and inched it closer towards victory in its \$5.23 billion (£2.84 billion) hostile bid for Pillsbury.

GrandMet said that 72.84 million common shares in Pillsbury had now been tendered in response to its offer for all Pillsbury's shares. The offer has now been extended until December 2.

## Union Square interim jump

Union Square, the fast-growing property services and development group, reports pre-tax profits of £1.84 million for the six months to end-September, against £648,000, and has plans for a substantial acquisition.

The half-way increase reflects the purchase in March of Anthony Green and Spencer, a commercial property surveyor. Earnings per share jumped 135 per cent to 2p. The interim dividend is 0.4p (0.3125p).

## NSM back in the black

TREVOR SMITH



Cast of millions: Don Carr unveils NSM's return to profit at the company's opencast mine at Heanor in Derbyshire

By Martin Waller  
NSM, the former Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, which is now Britain's biggest opencast coal miner, returned to profit for the first time for almost four years with £4.22 million in the half year to end-September.

There was no contribution from Bison, the concrete flooring group, its recent big acquisition.

Losses of £1.85 million last time came before the purchase of the opencast operations of Anglo United, which retains 26 per cent.

There is no interim dividend, but the group is on course for the 3p final payment forecast at the time of the Bison deal, said Mr Don Carr, the chairman.

Bison was itself trading ahead of budget in its first month under new ownership. Both the British and US operations were trading profitably, with considerable cost savings effected by the integration of the Anglo United companies, Mr Carr added.

Anglo United itself came in with pre-tax profits up 46 per cent to £2.5 million - £1.32 million of these from its stake in NSM.

The half-way dividend is maintained at 0.2p. Mr John Gainham, the finance director, said expansion was planned in its fuel distribution and property businesses.

Timesup, page 26

## Courtaulds moves to win Taubmans

By Our City Staff

Courtaulds, the chemicals and textiles multinational, has made a £19 million offer to buy the whole of Taubmans Industries Limited, an Australian manufacturer of paints and coatings.

Courtaulds, which already owns 56.4 per cent of the company, is offering to buy the rest. The offer - of Aus\$5 for each ordinary share and Aus\$2 for each preference share - values the Australian company at Aus\$92 million (£43.5 million).

Taubmans is the Australian arm of Courtaulds' international paint manufacturing and supply business, with subsidiaries in Australia, New Zealand and associated companies in Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Sir Chris-

topher Hogg, Courtaulds chairman, said he expected Taubmans' shareholders to find the offer very attractive. The price represented a 25 per cent increase on Aus\$4, the last market price of the shares before the offer was made and itself a record for them.

The offer is conditional on Courtaulds receiving at least 90 per cent agreement from the Taubmans shareholders.

Last year, Taubmans produced after-tax profits of Aus\$4.9 million on revenues of approximately Aus\$165 million.

The earnings per share amounted to 26.8 cents. In the six months to September 30 this year, the Australian company made an after-tax profit of Aus\$3.1 million.

## £21.5m Vivat buy for Chelsea Man

By Our City Staff

Vivat Holdings, the ailing Lee Cooper jeans group, has agreed to sell its high street retailing business, trading under the names Jean Jeanie, Jean Machine, FUs and Copy-right, for a maximum of £21.5 million.

The buyer is Chelsea Man, the clothes retailer which came to the USM in June 1986.

The 118 Vivat shops are trading at a loss. Mr Sam George, the Chelsea Man chairman, said the purchase was "very much a turnaround situation which will require a lot of hard work on our part".

He believed the shops' problem was their merchandise, which was his company's strength.

Chelsea Man designs its

own clothes and has them made in Italy.

This summer his company reported pre-tax profits £18,000 down to £1.58 million and the market believed Chelsea Man was suffering from lack of retail space - it trades from just seven outlets.

Vivat, which earlier this month terminated bid talks with Amber Day, a group run by one of its former directors, said the proceeds from the deal would be used to reduce its debts.

Meanwhile, management attention would concentrate on its clothes manufacturing and distribution businesses.

Prospects for a return to profitability next year now "greatly enhanced", the company said.

## Bhutan buys British

For those partial to asparagus, a deal struck recently between British Aerospace and the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan may come as extremely good news. For the country, which nestles above north-east India and is a big exporter of the vegetable, recently held a contest to buy an aircraft to ferry its 2,000 tourists a year from Calcutta. Three countries entered: Canada, with a Dash 8, France with an ATR 42 and Britain with a BAe 146, the preferred air transport of the Queen. The test was to see which of the three aircraft could best cope with taking off and landing on the runway at Paro, which is at 7,500 ft and surrounded by mountains. The Bhutan authorities loaded the planes with bags of sugar to put them through their paces, and British Aerospace finally clinched the \$28 million (£15 million) sale. The aircraft, which was delivered last week to coincide with the King of Bhutan's birthday, is now emblazoned with the logo of Druk Air, and so delighted is the Government with its purchase that it is to order three more - all of which are to be funded through ECGD loans.

## T Boone stake

I hear that T Boone Pickens, the most famous corporate raider of them all, is considering running for the governorship of his home state of Texas. The oil man, aged 60, says he may make his bid in

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Steel's fading appeal

City sentiment over the British Steel flotation which, at 125p a share, was regarded as a bit of a steal for investors. Until, that is, the release of the trade figures last Friday, and the subsequent slump in equities. Now it all looks pretty bleakish - at least, according to bets on the opening price being taken by the IG Index. The City's financial bookmaker was last

night offering a buy and sell price of 64p-67p on the 60p partly-paid shares in which dealings will start at 2.30 pm on December 5. Early on Friday it was quoting 78p-81p. Now at just 4p over the placing price, which was set two days before the record trade deficit was revealed, the index is reporting a dearth of buyers for the shares.

### New direction

The Institute of Directors is converting part of its fitness centre, in the basement of its grand Pall Mall headquarters, into a restaurant. The space, which, when the building was run by the United Services Club, included a hairdresser, will open as a brasserie on December 14. The idea is that the 30,000 IoD members will be able to get a faster bite than in the upstairs dining room. In keeping with the general splendour of the premises, I am told that the Victorian embossed wall tiles have been restored, as has a vaulted ceiling, and some of the old hairdressing cubicles have been incorporated into the new room. But the IoD has not entirely forgotten its heartier types who may prefer to take exercise rather than eat: it has come to a deal with the nearby Park Lane Hotel whereby members may use its gym.

## Wooden heart

Wickes, the DIY and timber group run by Henry Sweetbaum, is helping to put back some of the raw materials it takes, from one corner of the world at least. It has combined with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, the Indonesian Government and Cambridge University in research the regeneration of the tropical rain forest. By sponsoring a three-year study which will look at afforestation in logged areas, among other things, Wickes will be joining forces with scientific institutions, including the Royal Geographical Society. Wickes' particular contribution will be to build a base camp in central Kalimantan, Indonesia, where Barito Ulu, the international project, is trying to ensure the continuation of the forest. Work starts next spring and will involve 50 staff, 25 from Britain. Wickes is also sponsoring British and Indonesian scientists who will go out there. Sweetbaum says his group, which owns Hunter, the timber distributor, is anxious to ensure rain forests are harvested on a sustained yield basis to maintain ecological balance and, to that end, has already presented some of the equipment to an Indonesian embassy representative.

© Kjell-Olof Feldt, the Swedish finance minister has really put his affairs in order. Feldt, who has been lauded as the architect of his country's recent radical tax-cutting reform programme, has just filed court papers requesting his refrigerator to his dog.

Rosemary Unsworth

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## BRITISH MIDLAND



# Wiggins raises payout on 110% leap

**By Graham Searjeant**

Wiggins Group, the house-builder, property developer and motor agent, has raised its interim dividend by half – to 3p per share – on the back of another strong rise in profits.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September jumped by 110 per cent to £3.8 million, on turnover up 40 per cent to £56.9 million.

After a tax charge of £852,000 (against £346,000), earnings per share doubled from 9.5 to 19.1p per share.

Mr. Stephen Haykkan, the chairman, said Wiggins, which greatly expanded its housebuilding operations by buying Allison Homes in June 1987, had anticipated a slowing of the residential property market.

Action was taken early in the year to mitigate the effect and, as a result, all the group's operations were performing in line with management forecasts.

The first half saw the completion of a new phase of the group's Waterside development in London's Docklands, which has concentrated on letting relatively small office suites. Beaufort Court has been sold for £14 million and work is now well advanced on Arrowhead Quay, the next 170,000-sq ft phase of the Docklands project.

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## BWD Rensburg aiming to exploit link with society

**By Geoffrey Foster**

**BWD Securities**, the Yorkshire private-client stockbroker, yesterday effectively doubled its size when Rensburg, the Liverpool broking partnership acquired for £7.8 million, was fully integrated.

Led by Mr Christopher Broadbent and Mr Michael Woodhead, BWD Rensburg, the new group, will have more than 35,000 clients and more than £650 million discretionary funds under management.

And its geographical spread will enable it to provide a range of financial services across the North of England.

The move also makes the agreement Mr Broadbent

struck last July with the Yorkshire Building Society, the 12th largest building society, an even better one.

The YBS took up a near-12 per cent stake in BWD and now has an option to acquire a further holding at 130p a share to take its interest up to 16.2 per cent. In return, BWD is able to provide a full range of stockbroking services to the society's customers. With more than 150 branches, 750,000 customers, and assets of more than £2.5 billion, the management team at BWD is excited by the agreement's potential.

Next Monday, the doors will open at a newly-con-

stricted branch of the YBS in Castleford, Yorkshire, where a BWD Rensburg representative will be on hand to offer the public a full range of stockbroking services.

The BWD Rensburg move is the first direct link between a stockbroker and a building society and Mr Broadbent is confident that his company will make money.

Of the YBS's 750,000 customers, 16 per cent already own stocks and shares, and 300,000 of them are in Yorkshire.

BWD Rensburg has been appointed a regional co-ordinator for the British Steel flotation and is confident that

the issue will create considerable interest in its Sheffield and South Yorkshire heartland.

Brought to the USM by Mr Broadbent and Mr Woodhead at 95p only six months after the crash, BWD remained profitable through that period and achieved pre-tax profits of £180,000 in the first few months of the current year, compared to full-year profits to end-November 1987 of £1.28 million.

£1.28 million. Even if present dull conditions remain, the group will remain profitable and forecasts current year profits of £0.8 million and £1.8 million for next year.

**TOKYO**

## Shares hit by oil and rate fears

(Renter) — Prices closed sharply lower yesterday because of worries about the direction of oil prices and interest rates as well as technical reasons, brokers said.

Mr. Haruo Nakaharu, a vice-president of research at Prudential-Bache Securities (Japan), said: "The market is usually a little weak on a Monday. Volume started off too active and then we saw some profit-taking. We had eight days up and now we need some days down."

The Nikkei index fell 380.27 points, or 1.3 per cent, to 28,983.32 after losing 43.06 points on Saturday. It put on 1,263.70 in its series of eight closing records, from November 11 to 22, taking it to a peak 29,430.12.

Turnover reached 1.2 million shares. A total of 550 million were traded in Saturday's half-day session.

● **Singapore** — Volume dropped to near the year's low as operators stayed on the sidelines due to uncertainty about foreign bourses, brokers said. The *Straits Times'* industrial index shed 8.77 to 1,002.55.

● **Sydney** — The All-Industrials Index slipped 43.1 points to 2,451.4, the All-Resources Index 14.0 to 751.5 and the gold marker 10.8 to 1,525.1. Losses in leading industrials dragged the main index down.

INDEX DOWN

## NEW YORK

## Dow moves forward to 'correct over-reaction'

(Reuters) — Shares rose in early trading yesterday following Opel's agreement on a quota. Mr Michael Metz, an analyst

● **Frankfurt** — The 30-share DAX index closed at 1,259.13, down 16.28 points or 1.3 percent. Fear that higher oil prices would boost inflation and prompt a rise in US interest rates pushed shares to

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 5 points to 10,100. Interest rates pushed shares to a lower close in thin trading.

WALL STREET

[illegible]

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You now have only three days left to apply for shares in British Steel. Applications must be received by 10am on Friday 2nd December. Prospectuses with application forms are available in all branches of Lloyds Bank (or the Bank of Ireland in Northern Ireland) and main branches of the National Westminster Bank and the Bank of Scotland. Application forms are also published in selected national newspapers. The minimum application level is £500 and payment is in two instalments, the first being £240.

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## Herring deal for surveyor

By Colin Kirk

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## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Protecting markets, not protectionism

From the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry  
Sir, In his letter on foreign takeovers (November 15), Mr Steve Maslin commented that my winding-up speech at Torquay did not account for the benefits which foreign acquirers might bring to the UK economy. He also suggested that I was advocating a large dose of new regulations for business. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Few serious commentators challenge the view that foreign investment, whether by the creation of new assets or the acquisition of existing ones, has brought important benefits to the UK economy in the shape of jobs, effective management and new technology. Many UK companies in West European, American and Japanese ownership are members of the CBI and by their business performance and contribution to our affairs supply proof of those benefits on a daily basis. Indeed, as a

director of McKinsey and Co I was personally responsible for advising Nissan on whether to invest in Britain - an investment that has been a success for all the stakeholders concerned.

There is another reason why it would be foolish to paint ourselves into a protectionist corner, which I mentioned in my speech: the size of our business stake abroad. Britain's businesses are major investors and acquirers abroad, in North America in particular. The UK's private direct investment (non-bank assets) overseas was valued at \$86,350 million in 1987.

But it would be unwise to assume that the future will be like the past. My proposals were designed to address the future problems that seem certain to follow from the combination of the open and depressed state of the London financial markets and the fears in North America and the Pacific basin of a Fortress Europe, fuelled by the pros-

pect of 1992. The result is likely to be a rush to buy a position in the Community; and there is only one place where these purchases can take place at present: London.

It is particularly important now that the London financial markets have the time and information needed to make the decisions that will determine our economic future. Unfortunately, recent events have not exactly engendered confidence in the willingness or ability of the markets to take a long or considered view. The rush to sell is not just unseemly; it is frequently unwise also. Hence my proposals, which are designed to enhance the effectiveness of the markets, while leaving London the only open financial market in the Community.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN M. M. BANHAM,  
CBI, Centre Point,  
103 New Oxford Street,  
London WC1.  
November 22.

## Policing the City

From Mary Venning  
Sir, Trading on its "my word is my bond" reputation, the City has for many years fended off legal interference in its activities, claiming that fair play could be assured by self-regulation.

Last week, when City institutions, acting on behalf of Elders DXL, bought 35 million shares in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries after the Elders bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, they did so in contravention of well-established understandings between the DTT and the City.

Lord Young described this event as "extremely regrettable".

Elders and its City advisers have defended their action on the basis that what they did was "not illegal". In doing so they clearly indicated that the only authority they are prepared to accept as a constraint on their behaviour is that of the law.

In such circumstances, the case for legal regulation of the City becomes irrefutable.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY VENNING,  
52 Daisy Bank Road,  
Victoria Park,  
Longsight,  
Manchester.  
November 14.

## Cutting costs for the small investor

From The Rev David Barnes  
Sir, In continuing its now well-established policy of the privatization of the national utilities, it is presumably the Government's intention also to pursue its "wider share ownership" philosophy, and encourage consumers of water and electricity to become shareholders in their suppliers' companies.

For many small investors, however, the incentive to purchase shares has been much minimized by experience. The minimum commission charge for selling shares, whether by bank or broker, is about £25 and to

cover this and inflation there clearly has to be a very considerable increase in the value of the shares; in many cases money would have been better left invested in a building society account.

If the intended future sales are to reach the popular market, it would surely be to the Government's advantage to make special arrangements for a less costly way of dealing in small quantities - possibly through Girobank?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BARNES,  
St Peter's House,  
Minster-in-Sheppy, Kent.  
November 23.

## Wise words for Abbey National

From Mr Bryan Samain  
Sir, The board of Abbey National should heed the words of the Governor of the Bank of England (November 22), that "he was pleased so few societies seemed to want to convert into public companies and become banks... a complex move involving many risks".

In a letter in the same issue Mr R McCullough comments on "the reduction in business turnover by small investors on the Stock Exchange... hence the large increase in building society deposits and the recent

'thumbs down' as to whether building societies should become banks".

The connection between the governor's warning and your correspondent's wise observations on the present anxieties of the small investor is indeed clear. It is not too late for the Abbey National board to change its mind. It would seem, in fact, to be in the public interest for it to do so.

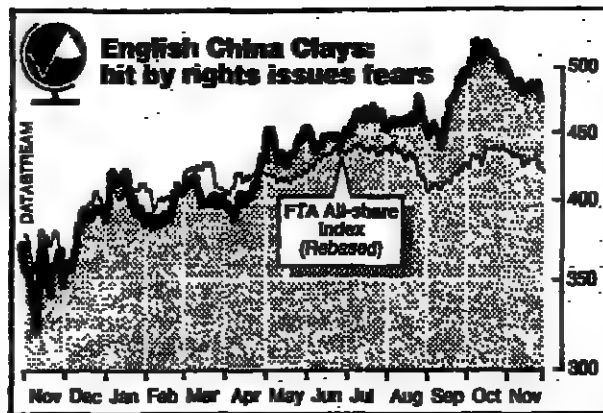
Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN SAMAIN,  
33 Warwick Gardens,  
Worthing, West Sussex.  
November 22.

## Profit warning hits Amstrad

Mr Alan Sugar, the chairman of Amstrad, took another beating from City analysts last night following a warning about first-half profits at the group's annual meeting yesterday.

The Amstrad share price finished 8p lower at 155p after he called the analysts into a back room to confirm recent fears that they had had about production problems during the first six months of the current year.

He gave a warning that deliveries of Amstrad's new video camera had been delayed as had its new hi-fi system. But the biggest problem had been the manufacture and supply of its video recorders where an estimated £25



million to £175 million - but he says that the worst is out of the way.

He said: "The share price has underperformed 25 per cent in recent weeks. The way it fell, you could tell something was up. It is one of the cheapest shares in the Footsie, but you are not going to see them much cheaper".

He says that the problem has been supply and not demand and he is urging shareholders to wait and see how the interim figures turn out.

He added: "You are not going to see a dramatic bounce. The share price will certainly be higher this time next year".

The rest of the equity market continued to reel from last week's dismal trade figures and the rise in interest rates. Prices remained in retreat for much of the day but closed above their worst after learning of the half-point increase in US prime rate to 10

per cent and the rally on Wall Street. Selling pressure remained light.

Liquidity is high and the institutions are proving reluctant to draw their spare cash out of the bank. By the close, the FTSE 100 had reduced a 20-point fall to 13.2 at 1,781.5. But the lack of support means that dealers can expect conditions to remain nervous in the short-term. The narrower FTSE 30 index fell 9.7 to 1,452.9.

Government securities remained dull, finishing with losses of more than 1/2 per cent as the Bank of England sold sterling.

Among the leaders, Allied-Lyons, the subject of comment in *Tempus* yesterday, advanced 5p to 466p ahead of today's interim figures. The market is looking for pre-tax profits of between £220 million and £230 million.

Mr Alan Bowd, the Amstrad broker, continues to cling on to 11 per cent of the shares and, judging by the resilience of the Allied price, few speculators are worried about the controversy over his finances.

The building sector came under the hammer with deal-

ers clearly worried about the impact of higher interest rates. The developers will be reluctant to borrow more money at present levels and this will eventually mean a slow-down in new projects. Market-makers ran their red pens through most of the leaders, concerned by the appearance of a few sellers.

One of the early casualties was English China Clays which continued to lose ground throughout the day, closing 22p lower at 450p, as almost 2 million shares were traded. This was prompted by talk in the market-place that the group was thinking about raising between £200 million and £300 million by a rights issue which would accompany

High-flyer Storehouse clawed back a 9p fall to close a net 2p down at 219p. There was speculation in the market that the group is looking for a white knight to take a 20 per cent-plus stake to help fend off any unwanted bids. But Storehouse says there is no truth in the story.

its full-year figures, expected next month.

Last year, ECC made an abortive bid for Bryant Holdings. Now there is talk that it may be hitting the acquisition trail again. Moreover, the group has been the subject of persistent bid talk itself - with RTZ often mentioned as a suitor.

Dealers are also worried about the effects of a strong pound on ECC's profits. Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits for the full year of £152

million compared with £117.9 million last time. A big final dividend is also expected, yielding more than 3 per cent on its own.

ECC is heavily involved in the building industry with its own building and building supplies division.

Other builders to finish with losses included Costain, 21p to 301p, Crest Nicholson, 8p to 183p, Higgs & Hill, 11p to 326p, John Laing ordinary, 6p to 386p and the "A" 7p to 285p. Persimmon, 7p to 140p, Taylor Woodrow, 11p to 585p and George Wimpey, 9p to 234p.

The retail sector continued to suffer from last week's move towards dearer money despite the news of Boots's agreed, £41 million bid for its rival, Underwoods, up 63p at 154p.

Dealers here are worried that higher interest rates could hit spending in the shops in the run-up to Christmas, while in America brokers are already claiming that pre-Christmas sales have failed to meet expectations.

Falls were recorded among most of the leading retailers, although selling remained lively. Marks and Spencer slipped 1/4p to 149p. Burton Group, 3p to 179p. Next, 6p to 155p, and Ratsers, 3p to 187p. There were also losses for WH Smith "A" 2p to 244p, after 243p. Woolworth, 8p to 253p and Lowndes Queensway, 3p to a fresh low of 56p. The Lowndes' share price is now almost half of what it stood at in August following the £450 million bid from Mr Jimmy Gulliver's consortium.

Michael Clark

## Life insurers 'could face predators' after 1992

By Colin Narborough



McNamara: 1992 a priority

British life insurers must make planning for the single European market their top priority, if they want to avoid becoming the targets of predatory bids from their Continental competitors, according to Mr Paul McNamara, head of Ernst & Whinney's insurance industry group.

Commenting on a survey the international accountancy group published yesterday, he said other leading European insurers, such as Allianz of West Germany, and Winter-

thur of Switzerland, were already putting their 1992 strategies into effect.

He urged immediate action by British insurers once the European Economic Community directive on life insurance is published. The directive for non-life insurance has already been issued.

Though life insurers appear hamstrung by the lack of an EEC directive, the survey indicates that many life firms have no intention to sell cross-frontier, but will instead estab-

lish local operations in other member states.

Many British companies expect 1992 to have some negative impact on London as the European insurance centre, and Mr McNamara hoped that recognition of that threat will bring a sense of urgency to brokers and underwriters.

While a quarter of respondents see the City's position under "serious threat", one in six expects no erosion of London's position, making it uncertain how much Conti-

ental firms will encroach on British territory.

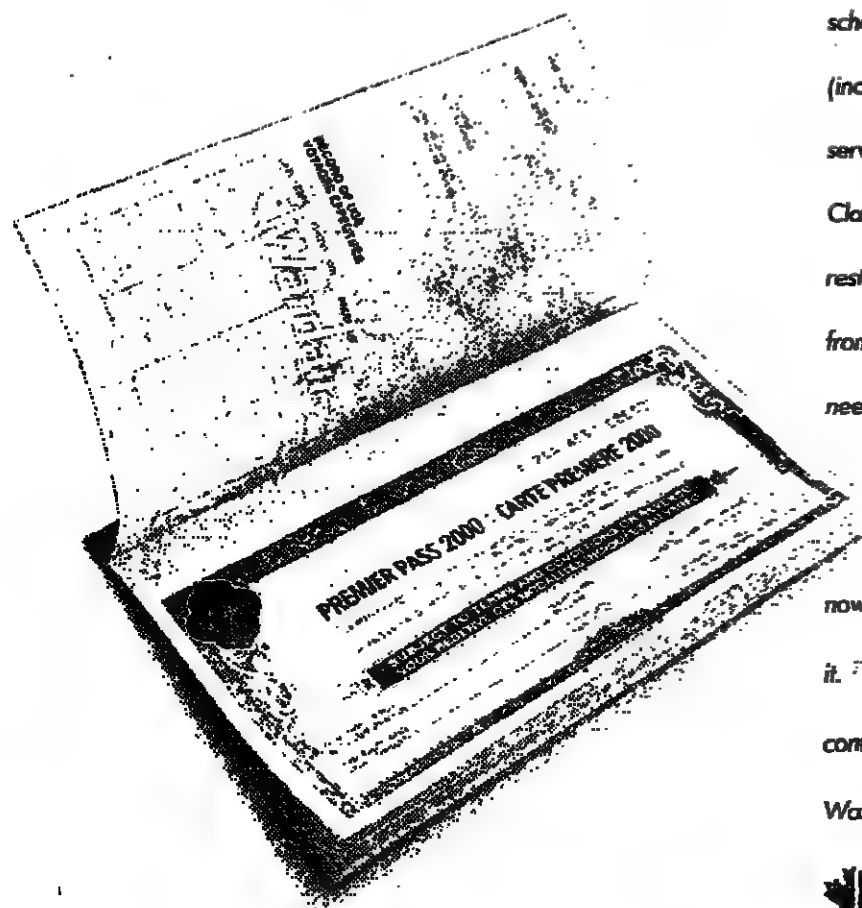
Mr McNamara said 1992 was forcing companies to rethink their strategies, both to make the most of the opportunities arising, and to remain competitive in the face of growing competition across the European market.

More than half the insurance companies and brokers in Britain see opportunities for expansion, but only one in 10 has completed a strategic review for 1992.

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## Fall in world merchant fleet

The world merchant ship fleet declined in the year to end-June to 403.4 million gross tonnes, after growing by 1.4 million tonnes the previous year. Britain's fleet fell by about 250,000 tonnes, according to Lloyd's Register of Shipping statistical tables. The Department of Transport and General Council of British Shipping said British shipping earned £3.3 billion in 1986.

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## TECHNOLOGY

Japanese high technology comes under attack from the EEC and a court battle in the US

## Penalty stays on printers

By Matthew May

European manufacturers of computer printers have won a decisive victory over their claims that Japanese electronics firms have been deliberately underpricing their exports of dot matrix printers on sale in Europe to buy a market share.

Last week the EEC decided that provisional levies placed on 15 Japanese firms last May should continue for up to five years. The duties imposed range from nearly 5 per cent to a hefty 47 per cent and cover nearly all Japan's printer exports.

Those affected include Fujitsu (47 per cent), Citizen Watch (43 per cent), Brother Industries and NEC (35 per cent) and Seiko Epson (26 per cent). The EEC agreed that such cut price exports from Japan had damaged European manufacturers.

Japanese firms with manufacturing plants within the EEC are expected to increase production here but the imported components used are also to

come under the scrutiny of the EEC. After the provisional levies were introduced, the Japanese firms involved made unusually strong protests. Epson, for example, the leader in the field, took full page advertisements in the European press to argue that the duties were arbitrary and miscalculated.

The EEC has previously also penalised other Japanese products, including video cassette recorders, photocopiers and compact disc players for underpricing.

Now Japanese technology exports face further limitations as the EEC discusses the setting of a voluntary minimum price for computer chips with Japanese semiconductor firms that European manufacturers argue have been dumped in the EEC. If no agreement is reached by the end of the year further anti-dumping duties are expected.

The talks centre on dynamic random access memory (DRAM) and erasable programmable memory

(EPROM) chips that are now widely being installed in household appliances and cars as well as computers.

An enquiry by the EEC which started last year has revealed substantial dumping margins on chips by virtually all the Japanese firms, according to Eckhard Runge, deputy secretary-general of the European Electronic Components Association (EECA), whose members include the British General Electric, Siemens of West Germany and SGS-Thomson of France.

But Japanese chip firms argue that the EEC objected to a similar agreement that was signed between the US and Japan in 1986 and effectively set minimum prices for Japanese chips being sold in the US.

The amount of the levies confirmed last week on matrix printers is said to be calculated as the difference between the EEC price and a value largely based on the price in Japan.

Japanese firms have had a huge success in the Europe with matrix

printers raising their market share to nearly three quarters last year from less than half three years earlier.

The EEC said the levies should be passed on to the final consumer and not taken out of profits something which customers are obviously unhappy about.

This month's edition of *What to Buy for Business* reviews printers and in the matrix market recommends four brands - all Japanese - while claiming that British office equipment buyers are being badly treated by having to pay more for their Japanese printers than they need "simply to protect the profit margins of a handful of European producers".

The magazine also argues that European suppliers are guilty of hypocrisy as they often sell Japanese products under their own European brand names.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has opened an inquiry into Japanese complaints about the EEC's anti-dumping policy.

## PERSPECTIVE

## When standards are not the best solution

By Mark Rogers

The issue of standards has arguably been the most debated subject in the computer industry over the past five years.

Whether it is data communications, operating systems, or user interfaces, there are standards committees, industry bodies, and more often than not there are different factions advocating one standard over another.

And we must not forget de facto standards which become so simply by being popular and heavily used, rather than undergoing formal approval procedures.

Clearly, standards are important. For large companies in particular they represent security of investment. For example, if a company is spending several million pounds on a computer installation which should last into the mid 1990s, it needs to be sure that the hardware, the operating system, the networking technology, and the application development tools, will all last the course.

From a vendor's point of view, standardization is both good and bad. On the positive side, development efforts can be more safely targeted at specific computing environments, rather than depending on the success or failure of a particular operating system.

Another benefit to the industry as a whole is that there will be more collaboration between vendors, particularly between hardware and software vendors.

The negative side is simply that standardization significantly narrows the avenues for competition. Companies have to sell their implementation of one standard over another.

To draw an analogy, imagine what the car market would be like if all manufacturers were obliged to produce 1800cc, four cylinder, 16-valve engines. Each company would have to sell its product on criteria such as weight, oil consumption, fine-tuning, and so on, rather than on concrete performance figures.

So are standards a panacea for all companies? The answer



"Very little software technology is good enough to be a standard"

is no, particularly when it comes to software. The most fundamental factor in the success of a potential standard is the quality of its underlying technology. The original IBM personal computer, for example, is a proven architecture worthy of becoming a standard.

Unfortunately, software development lags way behind, and there is very little software technology around which is good enough to be a standard. Indeed there is a very real danger that premature standardization will lead to stagnation in the software industry, when progress is urgently needed.

To return to the user's point of view, software standardization often takes place at the expense of performance. So for the small or medium-sized company for which the speed at which a program runs is more important than portability across a vast, multi-vendor computing installation, the standards path may actually be the wrong one to take.

A good example of this case involved "relational" technology, as applied to databases. This technique means that data stored in a database is defined in terms of its relationships with other data items.

Since a number of government and other influential organizations have standardized on this technology, the industry has accepted it as the norm. Most vendors in this market sell their own relational database systems.

No-one has questioned whether this is actually the most effective technique for database storage and retrieval. And the simple fact is that for most commercial applications, it is extremely slow and inefficient. Other technologies exist - such as variable length fields - which are more suitable.

The point to be made here is not that relational technology is wrong but that companies should think twice before adopting industry standards. Small and medium sized businesses in particular may find that there are alternative technologies which suit their needs far more closely, even in the long term.

● The author is managing director of M.F. Systems - a software company which specialises in fourth generation packages.

## Fight to sell twin deck video recorders

By Steve Mansfield

The first victory has been won in a US court battle which has raised the twin spectres of video piracy and a Japanese technology monopoly.

Go-Video, based in Arizona, is trying to market a product called the VCR-2, which it claims is the first twin-deck video recorder for domestic use.

But in a \$150 million anti-trust lawsuit brought against 13 defendants - including several Japanese electronics companies, such as Sony, JVC, Toshiba and Sharp - Go-Video claims that it is being prevented from obtaining crucial components and manufacturing facilities in a

conspiracy to prevent it obtaining a foothold in a Far East dominated market.

Fujitsu Electric, a Japanese manufacturer whose products turn up under such names as RCA and Magnavox, has agreed to settle out of court. In return for a cash settlement, which both parties have agreed not to disclose, Go-Video has dismissed Fujitsu as a defendant, although it is continuing its case against the 12 remaining companies.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and several film companies are also mentioned in the suit. Go-Video claims it was the MPAA flexing its muscles which persuaded several Japanese manufacturers, including

some of these now being sued, to drop plans to introduce similar products a few years ago.

With a planned end user price of under \$600 (£325) the VCR-2 would be only slightly more expensive than single deck machines. The two decks can be operated independently, as if they were separate machines, allowing users to record two programmes simultaneously, or record one while viewing a tape.

But it's the ability to record from one deck to the other that has people worried. The VCR-2 makes copying tapes very easy, and the MPAA feels this will result in an increase in home piracy of commercial tapes.

Go-Video's answer to this is that properly made pre-recorded tapes are protected against piracy by circuits built into the VCR-2. In the US, such tapes are specially encoded. When the encoding is detected, the machine refuses to allow recording from one deck to the other.

Home or office-produced tapes, however, can be copied easily with, claims the company, little loss of quality. That would make it attractive to educational and business users who need to produce multiple copies of promotional and training tapes.

And this is where Go-Video came in. The company is no commercial manufacturing giant. Far from being a major

electronics corporation, it is a small firm with a background in video programme production, putting together promotional and training films for local companies. Yet the company is attracting some heavy-weight support, in the form of Arizona senators and congressmen.

The defendants have until mid-December to make pre-trial depositions. Meanwhile, Go-Video is still being denied parts from Japan. Yet the company is not standing still.

Having raised an extra \$900,000 from a stock issue, Go-Video has entered into partnership with Kruger International, which has the capital and manufacturing facilities in Taiwan.

## Easy prey for a European post

By Jane Lawrence

Wanted. Skilled hi-tech staff. Previous experience required. Highest salaries paid. Apply Paris, Amsterdam or Bonn.

With a single European market only three years away it won't be long before advertisements like this start appearing in the British press.

In common with companies this side of the Channel, European firms are facing the prospect of a technology skills shortage that can only get worse and their solution is to travel outside their national borders. British computer programmers and analysts are prime targets.

According to Philip Burnford, managing director of Hay Management Consultants - British "knowledge workers" are easy prey for three reasons.

In the first place, the university system is very organized. The yearly milk round, when companies pursue graduates fresh from their studies, gives European firms the ideal opportunity for contacting a large number of possible employees, whereas the system in other countries is far more haphazard.

Secondly, British salaries are relatively low. Mr Burnford explains: "It's a bit tricky to measure, but if you look at earnings and the cost of living, Britain pays about 25 to 35 per cent less than major competitors, for example Germany."

Third is the propensity of the British for working abroad. "We are well disposed to working overseas. It's part of a long tradition." Indeed, the level of expatriation is four



The milk round at British universities gives European firms an ideal opportunity to recruit

times as high as many other countries.

Together, it all adds up to rich pickings for European employers. Mr Burnford concludes: "Companies have got to get used to the idea that they don't select good people, good people select them."

Some workers have already made the move to Europe, and the Department of Trade and Industry says there is nothing to stop anyone taking up a post in a Community country.

Practical experience in sought-after areas is the prime qualification. And moves are

about to introduce training standards into Britain which could make personnel even more attractive.

The National Council for Voluntary Qualifications has been given the task of putting together a standard set of building blocks, for industries such as computing, by 1992.

To this end it has set up a series of groups, including the Information Technology Industry Lead Body chaired by Barney Gibbons, head of software and services firm Sema Group.

The ITILB is working out a training programme for those wishing to become what Mr Gibbons calls "IT practitioners", drawing on two existing projects, the British Computer Societies and the Professional Development Scheme and the Computing Services Industry Training Councils (COSIT) Industry Standard Development Programme.

Mr Gibbons says that the proposed scheme should give Britain a head start on the rest of Europe, which is yet to embark on similar projects. Ideally, personnel will spend about four years amassing relevant experience which will be recorded in a log book.

A development programme has been underway for a year,

says the council's director, Gordon Ewan. The organization says the program benefits Britain by developing a perception in employees of the benefits of training and career development, while also helping to alleviate the skills shortage.

It's always possible though, that staff trained within a carefully thought-out framework will be even more appealing to European poachers.

Latest estimates put the current shortfall of data processing professionals in the UK at 30,000.

COSIT points out that, by the mid-1990's, the number of youngsters leaving school will fall by about 25 per cent. And this is echoed in Europe. Mr Burnford explains that people of working age in Germany will fall from the peak of 27 million to around 22 million in the middle of the next decade.

The country is already considering extending its retirement age, and Mr Burnford predicts a demand for older workers to start a second career in hi-tech fields like computing. Companies on this side of the Channel would be well served to consider the same before the head-hunters arrive en masse.

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## Speeds that defy joint agreement

Measuring the speed of a computer is one of the most hotly debated issues in the computer industry. Manufacturers routinely choose yardsticks that show their products in the best light.

Now, four makers of computer work stations in the US have taken steps to end their disagreement by setting up an organization to develop benchmarks that will permit head-to-head comparison.

The Systems Performance Evaluation Cooperative will have the support of Apollo Computer, Hewlett-Packard, MIPS Computer Systems and Sun Microsystems.

In the past, computer designers have argued over whether widely quoted figures, like millions of instructions per second, or MIPS, can be used to compare computers.

Because of design differences, competing computers may do different amounts of work using the same number of instructions.

Further snarling the problem has been the fact that one benchmark, for example the speed with which a computer sorts a database, may be a poor measure of how swiftly it can draw a graphics image.

To get around this problem, the new organization will try to measure computer speed by using "real world" applications, including electronic publishing, data base management, artificial intelligence programming, computer software design and computer automated design.

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## TECHNOLOGY

سكنا من الال

# Top money for those who contract out

More than 20,000 people in the information technology business are estimated to have given up the security of a permanent job, mainly computer programmers and analysts, and opted instead for the lucrative benefits of contracting their services out for fixed, short periods.

At the first recruitment show for contractors, held in London recently, another 1,700 still permanently employed came along to view the prospects on offer from the 28 agencies exhibiting their wares, according to its organizer, Christina Symons. First-timers are particularly precious finds, because demand is greater than supply; they were asked to wear red stickers so agents could easily identify them and try to persuade them of the benefits of going independent.

Those 28 agencies estimate they handled more than 15,000 assignments this year and that a further 3,500 contractors will be needed next year to satisfy demand.

Greg Tingey of A&G Marketing made a survey of exhibitors and asked what a first-timer might earn with say three years' experience of IBM equipment. The average came to £27,500 a year. London paid nearer £31,000 and overseas the average was £38,500.

On one side of the negotiating table is the company willing to buy in skills for a short period; on the other, the contractor. The contract agencies are like marriage brokers — they find two willing partners and bring them together.

The agent charges the company a total fee and keeps a percentage back from the contractor. Often, neither the company nor contractor is told what the agent's commission is worth. This rate varies from one agency to another, according to Mrs Symons, who was herself once an agent. She described the practice as "ridiculous".

## JOBSCENE

By Leslie Tilley

She added: "The average rate agencies charge is 20 per cent, but some charge 15 per cent and others may take as much as 30 per cent. It's quite a wide spread. I would like to see more standardization on rates, but I don't know how it would work."

Mrs Symons said that some contractors are tough negotiators and this is a skill that the first-timer will have to develop — it can make the difference between a good fee and a bad one.

This is one reason contractors view jobs passed on by word of mouth so

**It is difficult to gain new skills in a field where change is very fast**

highly. In this way the contractor can approach a company looking for someone with their skills and negotiate a rate where both gain by cutting out the agent.

But the contractor loses out on any benefits provided by an agent, such as weekly payments, as most companies pay monthly, or even quarterly. Increasingly, some agencies are also offering up to three months' pay if the contractor can't work because of serious illness.

Top priority for a newcomer is to decide which recruitment agencies to deal with — it is estimated there are over 250 in Britain. These range from a small back-room affair with no telephone, to large international firms able to offer assignments around the globe. Some

contractors have recently formed clubs so jobs, discount financial services and trade secrets can be shared.

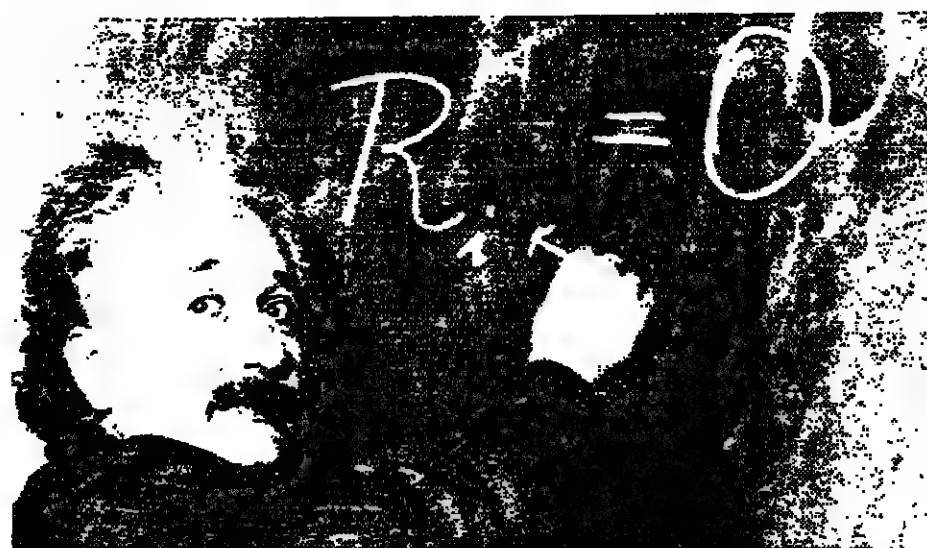
There are also drawbacks in contracting, as freelancers effectively charge by the hour and so don't get paid if they are ill, take a holiday or are absent for any other reason. And most contractors need at least three years experience. They are also required to set up a limited company and this adds additional expense, paper-work and time. In effect, the contractor signs an agreement as director of their own company with the agency.

Accountants will probably charge at least a couple of hundred pounds to set up the company and a further £500 or so to audit the accounts. It's best to hold this off until a contract is due to be signed and then to get the name of a good accountant from the agency. That way, if any difficulties occur, the agency is at least responsible for recommending them.

A less obvious problem is that contractors are employed because they are experts in a particular field and can find themselves pigeon-holed for that skill only. Companies will rarely train contractors, so it becomes difficult to gain new skills in a field where change is very fast.

A few agencies are starting to offer training courses that are, unfortunately, not much use without on-job experience. So contractors may find themselves unemployed after too many years in the game and then companies may be reluctant to welcome them back into permanent employment for fear the contractors will leave as soon as they have picked up marketable skills.

But some who have been working as contractors would not do it any other way. As one, who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "I plan to retire by 35 anyway."



Albert Einstein — the inventor of the theory of relativity that is now being challenged

## Is travel faster than the speed of light possible?

By Pearce Wright

The result of an experiment that contradicts one of the basic tenets of science is stirring controversy in the world of research. The discovery challenges the "scientific fact" taught to every schoolchild that nothing can travel faster than light.

The idea goes against Einstein, striking the foundations of modern physics which he helped lay. Yet the heresy suggesting that the light barrier may be broken, in much the same way as it is now accepted that the sound barrier can be broken, is published in the latest issue of the prestigious monthly magazine *Electronics and Wireless World*.

It describes a series of measurements made with a special electronic circuit, showing that electrical signals can travel faster than light.

Alleged discoveries that suddenly refute tried and tested knowledge often end up in a less illustrious publication known as the *Journal of Irreproducible Results*. In this case, there is no difficulty in repeating the research. The problem lies in explaining away the results.

The experiments into

"superluminal velocities" were conducted on apparatus built by an American instrument maker, Alexis Obolensky, who designs high-performance electronic equipment for industrial research and defence applications for a company called Bromion Laboratories.

British expert, Dr Harold Aspden, research fellow at Southampton University and former senior scientist at the IBM Hursley Research Laboratories, near Winchester, has examined the methods and the results for what he described as "possible self-deception".

He said: "There is no obvious flaw in the equipment; the experiments were well conducted and the findings seem to be correct."

In fact, the investigation is relatively straightforward. It is based on a novel scheme devised by Mr Obolensky for analysing the type of electrical signals that could comprise the pulses used for the transmission of telephone conversation or computer data. The idea for the experiment was prompted by a group of astronomers who reported

tracking a number of galaxies which appeared to be travelling faster than the speed of light.

Mr Obolensky believed the effect giving rise to the observation might be reproduced in the laboratory.

But the experiment in measuring events of a millionth of a second has only been possible because of the latest advance in very sensitive electronic analysers used to detect their first signs of an incoming electrical signal.

The apparatus includes a visual display unit on which pictures are presented of the arrival of each signal for a distant transmitter.

The signals are generated at a single source, but are then transmitted simultaneously by two circuits of differing length to the receiver where they are analysed. The measurements show that just before the main transmitted pulse arrives, there is a simultaneous arrival of a small signal from both circuits. It is about 1 per cent of the energy of the main signal travelling behind it, and it has to be travelling at twice the speed of light.

Mr Obolensky suggests that there are two modes by which the signals are propagated. The main one carrying most of the energy is the normal form of transmission recognized for such a circuit.

The faster small electrical pulse was found "by looking for a type of signal that nobody has bothered to look for because they would not expect to find it," he said. He has offered no theory to explain the findings.

## Super sit-in pinball

By Nick Nuttall

A futuristic human pinball machine in which the passenger's fun fair car is the board's giant ball and where, armed with radio hand sets, riders control their fate by working the game's enormous slippers, is being designed by leisure engineers.

The aim is to combine the thrills and spills of a roller coaster with the challenge of the dodgems and underscores how amusement park technology is being developed to put randomness, skill, and mental agility in to funfair rides in a bid to make them more entertaining.

Mega Ball is the brainchild of engineers and draftsman at Intamin of Freienbach, Switzerland — the world's biggest theme-park-machine manufacturer best known in Britain for its Observation Tower and River Rapids rides.

An Intamin executive, Reinhold Spieldeier, said: "We decided if the design of these types of leisure machines was to be advanced riders must get a feeling they are neither controlled or guided by the equipment."

"The time and path of a roller coaster is defined and constant every time but with Mega Ball each car will come down a different path and, depending on the way the car interacts with the slippers, in different times."

Exact specifications and details of the gigantic multi-coloured board have not been finalized but Mega Ball is expected to cover an area of around 2,000 square metres and be full of flashing lights, posts, gates and other features consistent with the traditional arcade machine.

The boards incline if planned at three degrees, complete with a score board notching up the rider's points as the four-seater ball races around the course.

A less sophisticated version of the game — which has been in research and development for four years — is planned to hit the market in the next few weeks.

Mega Ball One does not have the radio control features, explained Mr Spieldeier, but instead riders will be whisked around the board by automatic slippers activated on impact with the car.

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## HORIZONS

Sally Watts looks at ways of restoring quality to the country scene

## The breath of rural life

You have to be something of a juggler... able to cram a large amount into each day... to keep about 20 balls in the air all at once... to be a catalyst...

These observations, from men and women directing rural community work around the country, show the type of skills needed by new young graduates hoping to work "in the field" to help improve the quality of village life. Part of the work is to show people how to help themselves, then stand back and encourage them to take over.

There are 38 Rural Community Councils (RCCs). Every English shire county has one, although the name may vary, such as council of community services or voluntary service.

Most operate on an annual turnover of £80,000 to £100,000, provided mainly by the Rural Development Commission and local authorities. Three-quarters of the budget goes on salaries, the rest on office overheads, travel expenses and small pump-priming grants.

RCCs have seldom had a more vital role than today, with the depression of rural life. Significantly, the first council opened in the 1920s, another depressed time for agriculture. Salaries are modest but the rewards are large in terms of variety and fulfilment.

and the work brings wide-ranging experience and useful stepping stones.

Degree specialities include economics, geography, social sciences or environmental studies. A good start for a new graduate, or someone with A-levels, is to be recruited to help with an RCC project - councils generally have at least one of these in hand, and there are more project officer jobs than permanent posts.

They also provide openings for graduating mature students, returners and career-changers. Vacancies are advertised, but you

## Looking for aptitude, general awareness - and common sense

could also contact the councils in your area.

A project lasts for two or three years, at the end of which you will be well placed to apply for a permanent post as a field or rural officer. Graduates occasionally step straight into this work, but most begin via projects.

Some people continue to study, either full-time or while working. A diploma in management studies is an asset, or you might choose a second degree in a work-related subject, or a professional qualification such as in planning.

From project worker you could progress to director, via field or rural officer, assistant director and deputy director, usually by mov-

ing around several RCCs. To quote one director: "We are looking for aptitude, general awareness - and common sense."

A project recently completed by the community council in Northumberland, a high-unemployment area, was a two-year mobile-advice service, using a converted bus to reach people in isolated areas and help with their problems. The scheme was backed by other agencies such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau. The service dealt with queries on, among other things, benefits, job vacancies, housing and start-up, and supplied

community buses, operated by local people, that can be hired by village groups or feed into the main bus system. The RCC started the venture, with funding from two departments of the county council and the Rural Development Commission.

There is work with unemployed self-help groups and village newsletter workshops. But Cornwall's best-known work is boosting village shops.

The RCC ran a "shopping basket survey," to compare town and village shop prices, which showed that many items, such as vegetables, cost less in villages. Then came the "use it or lose it" slogan, and the forming of the Village Shopkeepers' Association, with a county-wide membership grouping together to bulk-buy and help each other with ideas.

Mrs Alsey says: "The exciting thing is being able to link pieces of information together to find ways of helping people."

You might expect Cambridge to be more prosperous than Northumberland or Cornwall. But Michael Bond, director of the community council, insists this is not so. "Unemployment exists alongside affluence," he says. "When two people in a family of four are unemployed, affluence is a veneer."

Part of his work is to administer a home-based team of development officers, mostly part-time mothers who work closely with more deprived communities, and

One achievement is the eight



Michael Bond: "Unemployment exists alongside affluence. When two people in a family of four are unemployed, affluence is a veneer"

find this a good route back to employment. They tend to be poached by local authorities.

Two other projects include the Fenland Rural Development Area scheme and another which is trying to introduce cheaper housing in cooperation with local landowners and parish councils.

"The work is very rewarding," says Mr Bond, whose background is local government administration, "although there are frustrations and you have to juggle with finance." With time too, it seems, because evening and weekend

work mounts up.

RCCs are affiliated to ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), a charity launched in 1987 at Fairford, Gloucestershire, to do at national level what RCCs do locally: identify problems, take action and make representations. It also provides an information service and training. A national training strategy is being implemented - and six residential training events have taken place in the last year for field workers, directors and other

## NOTICEBOARD

## Continent calling

A third of all the 200 business executives approached in a survey of attitudes to 1992, commissioned by the recruitment consultancy Hoggatt Bowers, think it likely that they might consider moving to another European country.

The survey, which was equally divided between north and south, revealed some interesting regional differences. The north was less insular about country preferences. Its respondents all rated Germany, Holland and Switzerland more highly as potential job locations than did their counterparts in the south, though for both groups France came top of the list.

This could be due to the fact that many people are familiar with France as a holiday destination, but there was no other correlation between holiday and work preferences. Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece were not particularly popular, though more so than some of the Scandinavian countries, several of which received zero ratings.

One rather surprising feature was that two out of five respondents claimed to be able to speak another language well enough to do business in. Here again, French was at the top of the list, followed by German. Spanish was some way behind and the rest, collectively, nowhere.

Portuguese, spoken by none of the respondents, which is the language of Latin America's most important economy, Brazil, was spoken by none of the respondents.

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## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

## SUSSEX COAST ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

(Post No. A.10)

Package negotiable from £22K with prospects up to £26K. This demanding post provides an excellent managerial opportunity for a qualified Solicitor with the ability and local government experience to make a major contribution to the development and implementation of corporate and departmental policy, as well as advising the Council, its committees and departments. As a second tier officer you will be able to demonstrate a proven record of achievement as a manager of people in addition to sound administrative and managerial professional skills of assessing the Director in guiding the Council through the strategic plan.

In addition to deputising for the Director (who is also the Chief Executive) you will play a leading role in directing and controlling the activities of the Department which has responsibility for a wide range of services including legal, corporate administration, electronic and local charges, personnel, printing and other office services.

At Adur, we seek to recruit and retain high calibre staff and therefore we are able to offer the following package:

- \* A competitive performance related salary
- \* Mortgage subsidy (50% of qualifying mortgage interest p.a.)
- \* Housing Benefit (where applicable)
- \* 100% reimbursement of major education costs
- \* Free life assurance
- \* Long term leave allowance

AND a real opportunity to apply your managerial skills in a pleasant coastal location.

For an informal discussion, please contact Gail Kerton (Chief Executive and Director of Administration) on extension 282, and for an application package, telephone (0273) 485006, extension 282, or write to the Personnel and Management Services Officer at the Civic Centre, Ham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN16 6PL.

Closing date: 8th December 1988.



Have you the Administrative and Managerial skills to meet the challenge of this new role in the Chief Executive's multi Professional Department?

## Assistant Town Clerk (Central Services)

Up to £14,973

Our package includes:

- \* Leased Car
- \* Disturbance Allowance up to £5,000
- \* 100% removals
- \* Medical Screening
- \* BUPA
- \* Performance Reward

Acting as the Departmental "anchor" you will provide comprehensive administrative support to the whole Department, with the assistance of your team.

You will also have responsibility for managing the Council's accommodation, including security through a period of great change and fulfill the Client role for cleaning of the Buildings.

Your proven management ability and flexible approach will be essential for this new and challenging role, together with a sound knowledge of Local Government administrative and financial procedures.

If you can meet our requirements then contact Caroline Adams, Personnel Officer for an application pack at Gillingham Borough Council, Canterbury Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 5LA. Tel: (0634) 577177 (direct line 24 hours). Closing date: 14 December 1988 Ref: 804128 GILL3.46

Gillingham Borough Council

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

## SALES DIRECTOR

Computer Systems &amp; Software South Wales £40K Package + BMW

Our client is a highly successful and expanding Unix-based systems/software company, now an acknowledged market leader in providing business solutions in the accounting, distribution, portable communications and sales information systems fields to a growing customer base across all sectors in the UK.

Reporting to the Board this new appointment offers the opportunity to work with a young management team and take responsibility for spearheading the sales activities for new and existing products including the market launch of a new 4GL accounting package.

The ideal candidate is likely to be an experienced sales professional with a proven track record who can target new business, specialist vertical markets and further develop existing major accounts. A background in selling and marketing computer-based solutions, packages and bespoke, and familiarity with the competitive needs of the mini/mainframe marketplace would be particularly relevant.

The job presents an opportunity to influence directly the growth of this progressive company and share in its profits and success.

To apply, please write in confidence, enclosing a full C.V. to:

Gerald Lloyd-Williams

Clemdale Associates

Midway House, Partridge Green, West Sussex, RH13 8JT

TEL: 0403-710204 FAX: 0403-710255

## PRINCIPAL PERSONNEL OFFICER

Salary up to £15,921

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED YOUR NEXT BUT ONE CAREER MOVE?

The last occupant of this post achieved Chief Officer status with another local authority.

WE NEED: someone to assist and advise line managers on their responsibilities for:

- Industrial Relations
- Recruitment and Selection
- Training and Employee Development
- Employee Relations

WE OFFER: a First Class Relocation Package

- Mortgage Support Scheme
- Car User Allowance
- Professional Subscription Payment
- Excellent Sports and Social Facilities
- Modern purpose built working environment in a parkland setting

DO YOU: want to take the first step towards sharing in and contributing to our emerging reputation for managerial excellence?

THEN: give David Butterfield, the Chief Personnel Officer, a call. He will be pleased to talk to you about the reasons for our success.

For a comprehensive information pack containing details of the job, the type of person we are looking for and an application form, please telephone the Personnel Services Division on Devises (0380) 4911 during office hours. Out of office hours you can telephone our answering service on Devises (0380) 729 412. Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Monday 19 December 1988.

47B

KENNET District Council



## TOWER HAMLETS HEALTH AUTHORITY

THE LONDON HOSPITAL (WHITECHAPEL)

## CHILDREN'S UNIT

## APPEAL FUND RAISER

£11,935-£14,369 inc LWA

Applications are invited from enthusiastic people who are interested in working in fund raising.

The post of Fund Raiser for The London Hospital's Children's Unit Appeal was created to promote the need to raise sufficient resources to build and equip a new facility for the treatment of children and adolescents at The London Hospital (Whitechapel).

For application form and details please contact the Personnel Department, The London Hospital (Whitechapel) Road, London, E1 1BB. Tel: 01-403-371700 (24 hour answer service).

Applications from people wishing to Job Share are welcomed.

Closing Date: 30 December, 1988. Interview: 14th January, 1989. WITHOUT TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

## FINANCIAL

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Management Division of the Finance Department has recently been restructured, and two opportunities arise for Accounting Technicians, or those studying for a full Accountancy qualification.

## Principal Accountant (Exchequer Services)

Salary £14,178-£15,417

One of two Principal Accountant posts responsible to the Assistant Treasurer (Financial) controlling a section of 4 Assistant Accountants dealing with payroll, creditor payments, grants to voluntary bodies, and statistical returns. Applicants should have payroll experience with Unipay or a similar system. This post offers excellent career development opportunities because the postholder will also be expected to undertake technical and research assignments, and should have a lively interest in current developments. For an informal discussion please contact Stuart Ellis on (0273) 471600 ext 333.

## Senior Accountancy Assistant

(Capital and Housing)

£10,743-£11,475

Responsible to the Principal Accountant (Capital and Housing), the successful applicant will be involved in the monitoring and modelling of the Council's capital programme, in budgeting and final accounts relating to all Housing services, and in handling the Council's debt management and external investments. Generous assistance with removal and relocation expenses will be given where appropriate.

Closing Date: 9 December 1988.

Application forms & further details from: The Personnel Department

Lewes District Council

32 High Street, Lewes

East Sussex BN7 2LX

Tel: Lewes (0273) 471600 ext 313

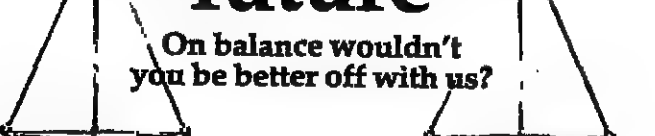
(24 hour answer service)

ewes DISTRICT COUNCIL

## LEGAL

## Weigh up your future

On balance wouldn't you be better off with us?



We are looking for either newly qualified or experienced lawyers wishing to pursue a career within the criminal law.

The Thames Valley Area Crown Prosecution Service covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire, and stretches from the Cotswolds in the North-West to Windsor, Maidenhead, Reading, and the fringes of London in the South-East; from the Downs and Newbury in the South-West through rural Buckinghamshire to the City of Milton Keynes. It is a large diverse area generating a stimulating variety of work. The Area is covered from offices in Abingdon, Aylesbury and Reading where the atmosphere is friendly and informal.

Salary for Crown Prosecutors in the Thames Valley is on the scale of £14,125 - £18,736 p.a. (plus performance points to scale maximum of £21,532 p.a.), plus an extra £900 p.a. for lawyers who cover weekend courts. Starting salary depends on experience.

Excellent opportunities exist for promotion to Senior Crown Prosecutor (ratio to Crown Prosecutors 1:2) and beyond.

Promotion to Senior Crown Prosecutor means a starting salary of £21,737 p.a., on a scale rising to £28,154 p.a. including performance points.

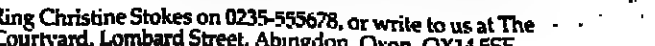
So, whether you are a newly qualified solicitor, or an experienced lawyer looking for a new challenge, we want to hear from you -

TIP THE SCALES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE AND MAKE A CASE FOR YOURSELF - NOT TO, WOULD BE CRIMINAL!

Ring Christine Stokes on 0235-555678, or write to us at The Courtyard, Lombard Street, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 5SE.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Thames Valley Area Crown Prosecution Service



## INNER LONDON MAGISTRATES' COURTS

BARRISTERS or SOLICITORS

£17,315-£22,383 p.a. (under review)

The posts: Deputy Chief Clerks in Magistrates' Courts in the Inner London Area as legal advisers with administrative responsibilities.

The applicants: Barristers called to the English Bar or Solicitors admitted in England. Previous experience in Magistrates' Courts while desirable is not essential, but the ability to learn quickly and work under pressure is.

The salary: £17,315 p.a. minimum rising to £22,383 p.a. inclusive. Salary under review for 1988.

The benefits: Varied and interesting workload; promotion prospects to Senior Deputy Chief Clerk and Chief Clerk; pension scheme (main provisions non-contributory; season ticket loan; 30 days' leave; assistance towards relocation costs in approved cases).

Application: For further details, and application forms which should be returned by 12 December please write quoting reference DCC/T to:

The Principal Chief Clerk

Inner London Magistrates' Courts Service

Third Floor, North West Wing

Bush House, Aldwych WC2B 4PU.

TO PLACE YOUR PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES PLEASE RING 01-481 1066



## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

## APPEALS AND PUBLICITY SECRETARY

The Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association, an old-established charity, with a turnover of £7 million a year, is seeking a person to take charge of its appeals and publicity work. The post would be based in the Association's headquarters in Kensington, but a certain amount of travelling round the country would be involved.

We give financial support to almost 1,000 people, and run Residential Care and Nursing Homes for a further 370. The charity is by nature somewhat specialised and it does not undertake the kind of high-profile, national fund-raising appropriate to charities with a wider popular appeal.

Previous experience of fund-raising for a charity would be an advantage. We are looking for someone who would be sensitive to the DGAA's position, and who could both undertake the development of new sources of support and give practical assistance with major social events, as well as overseeing an advertising programme of over £150,000 a year.

Salary will be negotiable around £17,000 p.a. There is free medical insurance cover and a generous pension scheme.

Applicants should send a full C.V., as soon as possible to Miss Sue Rigby at the address below.

**DISTRESSED GENTLEFOLK'S AID ASSOCIATION**  
VICARAGE GATE HOUSE  
VICARAGE GATE  
KENSINGTON  
LONDON W8 4AQ  
TELEPHONE: 01 - 229 9341

DGAA

FOREST HEALTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REGISTRATION OFFICER (COMMUNITY CHARGE)

Up to £13,887 p.a.

We are looking for someone with administrative or organising experience, who is used to working with computer-based systems, to set up and maintain the Council's Community charge Register.

We'll meet your relocation costs (including mortgage interest subsidy where relevant), provide temporary accommodation if you need it, and give you the resources to do the job effectively.

Application forms and further details can be obtained from the Personnel Manager, District Offices, College Heath Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7EY (Tel: 0638 716000 Ext. 235).

To discuss the appointment informally, you can talk to Andy Mead, Community Charge Manager on Ext. 317.

Closing date for return of completed forms is 12th December 1988.



**FOREST HEATH**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## THE BERKSHIRE VALUATION AND COMMUNITY CHARGE TRIBUNAL

## TRIBUNAL OFFICER

£11,106 to £13,104  
Plus essential Car User Allowance  
N J C entitlements of service apply

In April 1989 the Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal will supersede the Local Valuation Panel. The new Tribunal will be responsible for the determination of a massive influx of rating appeals, prompted by the non-domestic revaluation and the introduction of Community Charge.

You will receive training in the operation of the new Tribunal - advising Members in matters of law, precedent and procedure. Complementary duties will include office administration, staff management and liaison with associated bodies. You will be encouraged to deputise for the Clerk to the Tribunal when necessary, in anticipation of early promotion to the Deputy Clerkship.

We are a small, friendly team - hence a flexible approach is essential. A computerised system is soon to be installed and you will clearly recognise the administrative and management potential of information technology.

Although a thorough knowledge of rating law would be advantageous, equal consideration will be given to less experienced candidates who can demonstrate a capable, confident and professional attitude.

FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION, OR AN INFORMATION PACK, PLEASE TELEPHONE MURRAY CAMPBELL ON 0734 77567.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING WITH FULL CURRICULUM VITAE AND THE NAMES OF TWO REFEREES TO: THE CLERK, BERKSHIRE LOCAL VALUATION PANEL, 37 BROAD STREET, WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE RG1 1AU.  
CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 12th DECEMBER 1988.

## BRITISH STUDENTS SPORTS FEDERATION SECRETARY

The Federation is in a developmental stage and is seeking to appoint a permanent Secretary who will be responsible for organising domestic championships, British participation in international competition, and the Federation's general administration. Experience of sports administration is necessary and a knowledge of student sport is an advantage.

The appointment initially will be for a two-year period, salary c. £13,500 inclusive of London weighting.

Further details from:

The Honorary Secretary, BSSF,  
28 Woburn Square, London,  
WC1H 0AD. Tel: 01 580 3618

Applications to be in the form of a CV.  
Closing date: December 2nd 1988.

## NORTH MANCHESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY

## DISTRICT HEAD OF PLANNING &amp; ADMINISTRATION

27,540 p.a. plus opportunity for performance related pay. (pay increase pending)

Following the appointment of the previous holder to a Unit General Management post, we seek a self-reliant and enthusiastic person able to work under pressure and who has a successful record of achievement in a large scale organisation.

The postholder will be a management board member with responsibility for all our Health Service planning, Central Administration and various District functions including Authority Support, Education and Training, Works and Personnel.

This is a post with many challenges in the District that recently won the Sunday Times 'Best of Health' competition. Informal enquiries to Mr. G.M.H. Brown, District General Manager, Ext. 2936

Job Description and application form from District Personnel Department, North Manchester Health Authority, District Offices, Central Drive, Crummock, Manchester M15 6SL. Tel: 061-796 4207, Ext. 2291. Closing date for completed applications: 5 December 1988. Please quote ref: D60

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

## SHROPSHIRE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT TRUST CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The task will be to form and co-ordinate a fund-raising organisation. Training will be provided.

Applicants will be over 30 years of age; personable; have at least four years successful business or industrial management experience; have enthusiasm, be a good communicator both verbally and in writing, enjoy working with others, be resourceful and persuasive. The position calls for initiative, drive and administrative skills. A degree or equivalent professional qualification is desirable. Starting salary will be not less £12,000.

Please reply in your own handwriting giving a brief resume of your achievements to date to: The Secretary, S.C.D.T., 10 College Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LZ.

## THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUTISM is a lifelong mental handicap affecting some 80,000 people in the UK.

THE SOCIETY, founded by parents in 1962, is a national Charity. It provides information and advisory services to families and professionals, and already runs 10 schools and adult centres giving education, training, day and residential care.

THE NEED is for an Executive Director based at Headquarters, London NW2, to lead the Society into the next phase of its development, in which it aims to play a major role in securing improved provision for autistic people and their families by unifying the autistic movement.

THE PERSON we seek will be over 35, energetic and confident, with proven ability to lead an organisation and manage the challenge of expansion. S/he must be able to inspire staff, win respect from colleagues, professionals and NAS members, and effectively present the Society's concerns to legislators and the media.

THE SALARY is negotiable and likely to be in excess of £27,000. There will be other benefits such as a company car.

For further details and application form please phone Carol Ward-Perry on 01-451 1114 or write to National Autistic Society, 276 Willesden Lane, London NW2 5RB. Please send a stamped addressed envelope and quote ref: T5. Completed application forms to reach us no later than Wednesday 14th December.

The NAS is a registered charity.

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY  
276 Willesden Lane, London NW2 5RB Telephone 01-451 1114

## TECHNICAL

## DIRECTORATE OF HOUSING AND HEALTH

## Housing Development Co-ordinator

£13,497 - £14,559 plus leased car

This is a key position in a small, but high powered, team within a forward thinking Local Authority producing 80-100 dwellings each year by various partnership arrangements.

Assisting and deputising for the Housing Development Architect you should have sound experience of design and construction matters, be conversant with Building Contracts and Building Regulations, be capable of clear and innovative thinking and have a real interest in the provision of high quality social housing. Although a formal architectural or surveying qualification would be an advantage, it is not essential.

For an informal chat about the post contact Richard Donnelly, Chief Building Surveyor on 0403 64151 extension 294.

For an application form and job description please contact the Personnel Section, New Park House, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1RL or telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on Horsham (0403) 64237 quoting the reference.

CLOSING DATE: 9th December 1988.

REF: HM/5

Horsham district council

## BOROUGH PLANNING OFFICER To £28K + Performance Pay

As a consequence of a major departmental restructuring exercise and the introduction of a new management style the Council is now seeking to appoint a Borough Planning Officer on a five year fixed-term contract basis.

THE JOB We require a top class manager to lead one of the busiest Planning Departments in the country, currently handling over five thousand Planning and Building Regulation applications per annum. The Department is involved in processing the Torbay Local Plan towards Adoption in 1990, in the preparation of a variety of planning briefs and environmental improvement and conservation schemes for the area, as well as playing a major role in the Council's Tourism Development Action Programme.

Major schemes/proposals for the area currently include:-

\* Town Centre redevelopment

\* Leisure and out-of-town developments

THE PERSON The successful candidate will currently be holding a senior position either in Local Government or private planning practice and will have the necessary qualifications, flair, aptitude and ability to manage and motivate staff. As part of the senior management structure of the Authority you will contribute fully towards policy planning for the Borough.

THE ENVIRONMENT South Devon is renowned for its natural beauty. Torbay itself has 18 miles of coastline, superb leisure and recreational facilities, with Dartmoor National Park on the doorstep. Communications nationally and internationally are excellent.

For an information package please contact the Personnel Section, Torbay Borough Council, Town Hall, Torquay, TQ1 3DR. Tel: (0803) 218044.

Applications to be received by 23rd December, 1988.



TORBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## TECHNICAL

## BLOOMSBURY HEALTH AUTHORITY

## DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE &amp; SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

## DISTRICT FINANCIAL PLANNING MANAGER

£17,800 - £22,350 (inc) (Scale 27) (depending on experience)

Reporting to the Finance Director, you will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating all financial aspects of the District's planning activity. Bloomsbury is actively pursuing options to replace its existing estate and service facilities with a new purpose built hospital in central London. You will be charged with handling the financial input to this process. Additionally, the post carries responsibility for short and medium term financial projections on routine and ad hoc bases.

The Financial Planning Manager will be expected to work with colleagues at a senior level within the District and to liaise with representatives from a variety of organisations outside Bloomsbury.

You will have management responsibility for your own department (located in redistributed offices between Euston Station and Camden).

Enquiries to Chris Savory, Finance Director (Tel 01-380 9511) Application pack from Jim Lamb, Finance Director's Office, 25 Grafton Way, London WC1E 6DB. (01-380 9311).

Closing date: Friday 16th December 1988.

Sheffield City Polytechnic

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## CONTRACTS SOLICITOR

£24,000 - £27,000 p.a. + company car

Looking to the future, and to the privatisation of the Board, Southern Electricity are currently seeking a CONTRACTS SOLICITOR to work in pleasant rural surroundings at our prestigious Head Office, Littlewick Green, near Maidenhead. This is an important new post, reporting to the Board Solicitor.

The key tasks are varied and challenging including the provision of legal advice and services in respect of all sale, purchase, power and other commercial contracts. This involves drafting, negotiating and consulting, and maintaining a constant awareness of the current and changing legal aspects of the Company's trading and business activities. In addition support is needed in other areas of commercial and company work.

To effectively undertake these duties we are seeking a graduate Solicitor or Barrister of 1-5 years experience dealing in contract/commercial law. Equally important, an individual with fast learning ability, a methodical and practical approach to problem solving together with self-motivation and excellent decision making and interpersonal communication skills. Essentially, applicants should be looking for a challenge and be prepared to 'stay ahead' whilst under pressure.

In return, the rewards offered are high including excellent future prospects and all the benefits associated with a large 'blue chip' company.

If you would like to discuss this opportunity informally, please telephone:

Derek Morris, Solicitor to the Board, on 0628 82 2166, or please apply in writing with full C.V. stating salary expectations to:

Torla Bennett, Personnel Section, Southern Electricity House, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3OB quoting reference: 61/88 by no later than 23rd December 1988.

Over 2.25 million customers in central Southern England depend on Southern Electricity. Could you play a vital role in our team, to help us continuously improve our service?

southern  
electricity

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

DELIVERS BETTER VALUE

## Commercial Lawyer

An area of expanding opportunity

Unisys is one of the world's top three computer manufacturers, and a leading supplier in the fast-moving world of IT-based business solutions. We're now looking for an experienced solicitor or barrister with commercial expertise and acumen to join our small Legal Department.

Based at our headquarters in NW10, you'll be working with the Legal Director and one other lawyer in the corporate and commercial field - specifically contract, sale of goods, distribution, licensing and restrictive practices law - in which you should have at least three years' post-qualification experience. Some knowledge of computer sales contracts would be an advantage. There will be extensive liaison at all levels throughout the company, making full use of your excellent communication skills.

We'll reward you with an attractive salary plus car and relocation expenses where appropriate, and the sort of benefits package you're entitled to expect from a company of our stature.

If you're stimulated by the challenge of a fast-changing environment, send your C.V. to Susan Hughes at Unisys Ltd, Stonebridge Park, London NW10 8LS.

UNISYS

The power of

## Principal Assistant Solicitor

Up to £19,806 plus benefits



Portsmouth

We are seeking a Solicitor to take responsibility for several important committees within the Policy and Recreation Group of the City Secretary's Department, as well as a range of varied and interesting legal work.

If you are looking to develop your career in a challenging environment, then we are looking for someone to join a large and progressive local authority, undertaking and promoting many high profile projects and playing a vital part in ensuring the continued success of the authority's initiatives. You will need a professional and innovative approach and you will be making a positive contribution to the development and improvement of the City.

If you have post-admission experience and a working knowledge of local authority practice; if you are keen to display initiative and want to enhance your career prospects; this is the job for you.

Benefits include leased car, free health insurance and generous relocation package.

Application forms available from The City Secretary & Solicitor, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AL or telephone Miss Parish on (0705) 834045.

Closing date: 20 December 1988.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL

A leading commercial litigation and corporate law practice in The State of Qatar, Arabian Gulf, requires a solicitor or barrister with 2 to 3 years experience. The successful applicant must show enthusiasm and be able to exercise sound commercial judgment and deal with commercial clients at a senior level.

Tax-free salary commensurate with experience, plus paid annual leave, free accommodation, transport, medical and other benefits.

Please write with C.V. to: RICHARD READ, ASHETONS, 99 ALDWYCH, LONDON WC2B 4JF

## Robertsons SOLICITORS

Expanding South Wales practice is seeking

TWO NEWLY QUALIFIED SOLICITORS

to deal with the following

1. Civil Litigation. 2. Commercial Conveyancing

Vacancies for

ARTICLED CLERKS

Salary by negotiation. Excellent career prospects.

Apply in writing with full CV in first instance to:

D G Roberts Esq  
ROBERTSONS, SOLICITORS  
6 Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3DP  
Quoting Ref P

## RIVERS AND REGULATION DIVISION

(National Rivers Authority)

The Midlands area of the National Rivers Authority will come into being in Autumn 1989 and until then will operate as the Rivers and Regulation Division of Severn-Trent. It is responsible for land drainage, water resources, pollution prevention and conservation over an area of 8,500 square miles across central England and Wales.

## Assistant Solicitor (Litigation)

Salary up to £16,000 pa or  
£18,000 pa

Based at Solihull the successful candidate will represent the National Rivers Authority (Rivers and Regulation Division) in its enforcement role, have responsibility for planning and other tribunal work as well as for legal advice and civil and criminal litigation to all levels of management. Candidates for this new and significant role should have up to 3 years post-qualifying experience which preferably should include some advocacy. The range and depth of experience will however determine grade and salary.

Application forms quoting reference RRS1, and further details are available from the Personnel Department, Severn-Trent Water, Rivers and Regulation Division, Sepphorie East, 550 Streetbrook Road, Solihull B91 1QT. Telephone: 021-711 2324.

Closing date: 15 December 1988.

Severn-Trent is an equal opportunity employer.



Continued on next page



## LEGAL &amp; FINANCIAL

## Merge in haste . . .

Frances Gibb reviews  
a book that takes a  
cool look at a trend

It is just not fashionable for solicitors' firms to merge. For many firms that want to survive, mergers are the "done thing". In the next year nearly every firm is likely to consider the possibility of merger, receive a merger approach or merge. So predicts Michael Simmons, solicitor and consultant on practice management, who has just written a book on the subject.

If his predictions are to be believed, it will be a bestseller. He says: "It is filling a gap in the market. We now have merger consultants but no practical reference book on mergers. Everyone is talking about merger, including us." But his own experiences plus those gleaned for writing the book — has "made me a lot more cautious".

The book, out next month from Waterlow, gives practical advice on the pros and cons of merger; alternatives to merger; nuts and bolts such as integrating computer systems, accounts and taxation; and merger problems. It contains a dozen personal experiences of different kinds and sizes of merger, including Sir Max Williams on Clifford Chance; Tony Thompson on Withers Crossman

Block and Philip Swift on Taylor Vinters.

Solicitors have been surprisingly open, Mr Simmons says. But he admits that some revelations were later blue-pencilled by their authors. Readers will not find the tale of the clash between two prospective merger partners because three women partners of one firm objected to a ruling in the other firm that female staff could not wear trousers.

Nor the tale of the firms whose differences in attitude were highlighted by the coffee supplies: staff in one firm had set breaks and had to pay 15p for their coffee from a machine; the other firm enjoyed free coffee all day. As with all such

they should "see themselves as a jigsaw puzzle and work out the piece which will fit. Then look for the firm with the merger profile you need".

Ideally, he believes the best approach is through an intermediary because of the innate suspicion of lawyers. He says: "They can approach the firm you are interested in and make them think they are the predators."

Prospective mergers can founder on anything from a mis-match of attitude among staff to details such as the order of names on the notepaper. He cites the case of one prospective merger involving his own firm in which a partner on the other side, shortly before the deal

was finalized, phoned and said: "You are the managing partner. What do I do about all these filing cabinets in my office?" The merger never came about.

Mergers often fail because firms underestimate the problems, he says. Costs are usually far more than they estimate. Salaries will always go up to the higher level that prevails. Much ill feeling — perhaps leading to key staff walking out — can also be created by "secrecy" of merger talks: staff will necessarily be made redundant — "you don't need two receptionists" — and should be told as soon as possible.

He sees firms in three categories: the first-generation firm, known for the name of the senior partner, the entrepreneurs who "can kill more than they eat"; the second-generation firm where those founders are gone, whose members are squabbling among themselves, and who are often the "prime candidates" for take-over; and the new generation of "rough, tough guys" with an oligarchy of competition. Mergers between types one and two, or two and three, are most likely to succeed, he says.

Yet Mr Simmons concludes that mergers are not the only way to proceed. If firms have non-profitable areas, an alternative is to "hive" them off. He explains: "Rather than merge, become a boutique, de-merge. Big is not necessarily beautiful." He believes that mergers or take-overs are not appropriate for most firms. Nor, he predicts, will it be long before the results of too-hasty mergers appear.

He says: "There will be an increasing number of hive-offs, de-mergers, defections, split-offs, or what you will." Meanwhile, the future is promising for those like himself, in the ranks of partnership consultants. Their ranks may even be swelled, he says, by "marriage-guidance counsellors" who wish to enlarge their horizons.

● *Successful Mergers: planning, strategy and execution*, Waterlow Publishers, available December 9, £12.95 paperback



## The prize professionals

The results were announced yesterday in the *Times* Legal and Financial Young Professionals Competition 1988, sponsored by Fishburn Boxer, the solicitors, and Arthur Young, the accountants. Pictured above are, from left, Clive Boxer, senior partner of Fishburn Boxer, Clare Price, winner in the legal category of the competition, Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times*, Ben Thompson, winner of the financial category, and Peter Edwards, managing partner of Arthur Young.

Entrants in the legal category had to write in no more than 700 words on whether trial by the media can ever be justified. Contestants in the financial category had to discuss in no more than 700 words whether hunger for short-term profitability was destroying British industry. Clare Price is a postgraduate student at Cambridge University and Ben Thompson is studying for A levels at Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham, Buckinghamshire. They each received cheques for £1,000 and an Apple Macintosh twin-disk SE computer.

The runners-up were awarded framed cartoons by Ken Pyne. ● A full report of the competition will appear next week

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A.M. Wynn  
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## THE LAW

## The prisoners of supply and demand

A gulf of incomprehension appears to exist between the sentencers and those whose business it is to deal with offenders before and after sentence.

It is my view that the ever-widening gap is undermining the credibility of the criminal process, and is exacerbating the most formidable social problems of our time: crime prevention and the crisis in the prisons.

To what degree is the Bar responsible for this and what in any event should the Bar do to bridge this chasm?

A few well established statistics spell out the crisis:

● From 1974 the downward trend in the proportionate use of custody in all courts was reversed: 13 per cent then, 18 per cent now of all indictable offences.

● In Crown Courts in 1986, of 85,000 offenders sentenced, 45,000 received a sentence of immediate custody (52 per cent). In Magistrates Courts, 28,000 went into custody, with 4,200 further summary offenders and a

further 19,200 Fine Defaulters, making a total of 47,000. ● There are about 49,300 prisoners in prisons officially authorised to hold 43,000, with another 700 in police cells.

Conditions in prisons have been described by one Board of Visitors as "a disgrace to a civilized society", by another as "conditions which would not be tolerated by animals". Of these adult inmates, 57 per cent of males and 37 per cent of females re-offend within two years. Of those in youth custody, 83 per cent and 54 per cent do so of those aged 17-20, 66 per cent and 33 per cent. If we go on in this way, the latest Home Office projection for 1996 forecasts 63,000 to 69,000 prisoners - 20,000 without integral sanitation. The cost today is £252 a week per prisoner; £15 for a probation



## Lord Hutchinson, QC, urges the Bar to lead sentencing reforms

order. And we send more people to prison than any of our friends in Europe - both in total and proportionately - yet we do not have a higher number of serious crimes. It is the courts who supply the prisons. It is the executive which provides the cells at £69,000 a cell: 22 new and additional prison establishments by 1995 will cost £1 billion - a 55 per cent expansion programme. More prisons, more prisoners - the merry-go-round continues. Here, uniquely, is the user of a national resource with no restraints upon demand. As long as the law is observed the supply of

prisoners is infinite. The administrators watch in despair as the conveyor belt runs on, fed by 1,500 assorted judges and 27,000 magistrates.

Sir Brian Cribban, late permanent secretary at the Home Office, in a recent lecture delivered in Australia, asked: "Will we never find a point of intervention in sentencing decisions themselves? Can we never contemplate inserting mechanisms of demand management into the sentencing process, so that the volume of demand for imprisonment can be more closely tied to supply?" To this should be added a

comment by Norman Carlson, the one-time head of the US Federal Prison System: "You cannot build yourself out of overcrowding, it has never succeeded yet."

The resolution of the demand-supply situation must lie with the sentencers, outside the long-term social problem of crime prevention. The only sentencing "policy" that there is emerges from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division): ad hoc, empirical, decided case by case, without any proper supporting staff or extra-judicial input. This policy is clearly flawed. Sentencers adopt a stance of

isolation and independence. But judicial isolation is not the same as judicial independence. It is not self-evident that the separation of powers carries the implication that sentencing policy is a matter solely for judges.

In 20 years of practice the average member of the Criminal Bar Association will have absorbed the conventional wisdom, the tariff, the "judicial approach". Prison, they will find and will accept, is the penalty. In sentencing, their guiding light will be the complex of previous decisions.

The sentencing process is in need of radical reform. This can now come only from an initiative by the Bar. It is for the Bar to inform itself about the increasing and explosive crisis in the prisons; to spell out and advocate a new approach to custodial sentencing,

and to the granting of bail; to examine and question the conventional wisdom; to explore how best to break down the rigid separation of powers and pull down the stockades which separate the Lord Chancellor's department from the Home Office.

If the Bar does not take this initiative, who will? It will surely not be the judiciary. The matter is of great urgency. If the CBA does nothing, I predict that some or all of the following will come about:

- A call for career judges - educated, informed and trained.
- A call for parliamentary restraints on judicial discretion and statutory criteria for the imposition of custodial sentences.
- Further action by the executive to alter or nullify the sentence of the court.
- The establishment of a Sentencing Council to advise or guide the sentencer.

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● Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC is a member of the NACRO Council

## Chancery Division

## Law Report November 29 1988

## Queen's Bench Division

## No gains relief on holiday let rooms

Owen v Elliott (Inspector of Taxes)  
Before Mr Justice Millett  
[Judgment November 23]

The capital gain arising on the disposal of a private residence that was used in part as a holiday let was held not to qualify for the exemption from capital gains tax introduced in section 80(1) of the Finance Act 1980. The relief given by that provision did not apply to short-term holiday lettings but was restricted to apply only where accommodation was let to persons who were likely to use it as their home.

Mr Justice Millett so held in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Peter Edwin Owen, from the determination of the Revenue's general commissioners confirming an assessment to the tax raised on him for 1981-82 in the sum of £22,835.

Section 80(1) of the Finance Act 1980 provides relief from capital gains tax where "a gain to which section 101 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 (disposals of private residences)

applies to any individual and the dwelling-house in question or any part of it is or has at any time in his period of ownership been wholly or partly let by him as residential accommodation . . ."

Mr Giles Goodfellow for the taxpayer, Mr Alan Moses for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE MILLETT said that the case raised the short question of construction of the phrase in section 80(1) "let by him as residential accommodation".

The taxpayer and his wife had carried on a private hotel business in Eastbourne from premises they had owned and lived in. Mrs Owen did the cooking for guests who came for short-term periods in the summer and for a few who spent longer periods with them in the winter. The premises had a table licence.

During the summer the taxpayer and his family occupied an annex to the premises but during the low season occupied the whole of the premises together with any guests who were staying.

On selling the property it was agreed between the taxpayer and the inspector that one-third of the gain arising was exempt from capital gains tax under sections 101 and 102 of the 1979 Act (relief on disposal of private residence).

The taxpayer, however, claimed that he was entitled to further relief by virtue of section 80(1) of the 1980 Act on the ground that part of the property had been let to guests and as such "let by him as residential accommodation".

The commissioners dismissed the taxpayer's appeal against the assessment to the tax raised on him in respect of the disposal of the property being of the opinion that "the taking in of boarders" did not amount to letting as residential accommodation within the meaning of section 80(1).

Mr Moses contended that the words had to take their meaning according to the context and intention of the Act taken together with the provisions in the 1979 Act concerned with the disposal of a taxpayer's dwelling house which he had made his main residence.

The words were, he said, to be construed in the context of letting someone use the premises as their home as opposed to guests staying without making their home there.

For the taxpayer it was said that the words meant simply that the accommodation was let for residential as opposed to commercial or business use. "Residential" was, Mr Goodfellow said, descriptive of the accommodation and was inapt to describe the purpose or

intention of the persons staying in the premises.

Clearly "residential accommodation" was capable of either meaning. But in the statutory context of section 80 the narrower construction urged by the Crown was to be preferred. It was easy to understand a social purpose in section 80 - to encourage home owners to make part available to others and to encourage persons to take lodgers. It was difficult to see any social purpose in this context in providing relief to those running hotels for holidaymakers.

The taxpayer raised an impressive argument that it would be difficult to apply section 80 if the test was to depend on the purpose for which the occupation was taken. Was a taxpayer who wished to avail himself of the relief required to submit a questionnaire to each occupier and keep full records of their stays?

But, as Mr Moses pointed out, the section was not looking at the quality of each occupier's occupation. A taxpayer in order to get the relief had to establish that the kind of letting he provided was to persons who would be likely to use the accommodation provided as their home.

That was a question of fact for the commissioners and it did not require them to make a meticulous examination of each occupancy but rather to look at the purpose of the taxpayer in granting the letting to the occupier.

The appeal was dismissed. Solicitors: Winter & Co, Eastbourne; Solicitor of Island Revenue.

Kenning v Eve Construction Ltd  
Before Mr Michael Wright, QC  
[Judgment November 21]

Where a covering letter associated with an expert report, disclosure of which had been agreed, was inadvertently disclosed, the other party could not be debarred from amending his statement of claim in the light of it and might rely on it in examination of the expert if called as a witness.

Mr Michael Wright, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in dismissing an application by the defendants, Eve Construction Ltd, to have the plaintiff, Mr Paul Kenning, barred from amending his statement of claim

or relying on the evidence in cross-examination of the witness and to deliver up the letter and any notes made on it.

Mr Christopher Gardner for the plaintiff, Mr William Stevenson for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said the defendants' solicitors had requested a consulting engineer's report on a winch by which the plaintiff had been injured. The report indicated the view that matters alleged in the statement of claim should not present undue difficulties.

However, a covering letter was attached which indicated a number of other points not in the statement of claim but which could be alleged and were considered likely to cause real difficulty.

## Knife brings burglar within aggravation section

Regina v Stones  
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Ian Kennedy  
[Judgment November 3]

The mischief at which section 10(1) of the Theft Act 1968 was clearly aimed was that if a burglar had a weapon with him and had the intention to use it to injure some person not connected with the burglary, he might nevertheless be tempted to use it if challenged and put under sufficient pressure during the course of the burglary.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of James Stones against his conviction on January 13, 1988 in Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Pelling and a jury) of aggravated burglary, on

which he was sentenced to 2½ years imprisonment. A further six months imprisonment was imposed consecutively on his conviction on pleas of guilty to two counts of burglary.

Section 10(1) of the 1968 Act provides: "A person is guilty of aggravated burglary if he commits any burglary and at the time has with him any weapon of offence . . . and for this purpose . . . (b) 'weapon of offence' means any article made or adapted for use for causing injury to or incapacitating a person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use . . ."

Mr John Love, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Ian Graham for the Crown, LORD JUSTICE GLIDE-

well said that the appellant admitted that he had taken part in the burglary of a dwelling house. He and another man were seen by an off-duty police officer loading stolen goods into a van.

The police were called and the two men ran off, but the appellant was caught and arrested. When searched, a household knife was found in his possession. When asked why he had it with him he said: "For self-defence, because some lads from Blythe are after me".

The prosecution submitted that if the appellant knowingly had the knife with him at the time of the burglary, with the intention of using it to cause injury to or incapacitate the lads from Blythe if he met them, the offence was proved. It was not

necessary to prove intention to use the knife during the course of the burglary.

In their Lordships' view that submission was correct. The mischief at which the section was aimed was clearly that if a burglar had a weapon with him which he intended to use to injure some person unconnected with the premises burgled, he might be tempted to use it if challenged during the course of the burglary.

On a correct interpretation of the section there clearly was evidence which the jury accepted of intention to use the knife to injure or incapacitate some person, therefore there was nothing unsafe or unsatisfactory in the conviction.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

## Affidavit deadline

Listing Statement (Applications: Queen's Bench Non-Jury and Jury Lists)

Parties making applications or summons to be heard by the Judge in Charge of the Lists, both non-jury and jury, had to ensure that affidavits or other documents on which they intended to rely were lodged

with the Clerk of the Lists not later than 2.30pm on the day before the application, which might otherwise be put to the bottom of the list and failure might affect the way the costs of the hearing were dealt with.

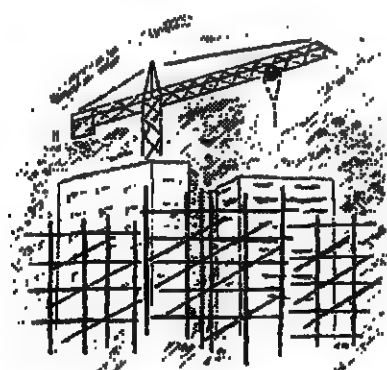
Mr Justice Drake so stated in a listing statement issued in the Queen's Bench Division on November 17.

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## CRICKET

# Australia ring the bowling changes as Jones drops out

From John Woodcock, Perth

His confidence in shreds after touring Pakistan, Dean Jones has been dropped from the Australian 12 for the second Test against West Indies, starting here on Friday. As Jones drops out so Geoff Lawson comes back, his return the culmination of a long fight against a back injury. A fellow hothead, Merv Hughes of Victoria, has also been recalled.

Like most of Australia's batsmen, Jones must be looking forward to the chance of playing himself back into form against England next year. In the Ashes series of 1986-87, he scored over 500 runs.

## Classy 134 from Logie

Melbourne (Reuters) — With West Indies' rain-marred match against Victoria always destined to end in a draw yesterday, Gus Logie made good use of the time to hone his batting skills in readiness for the second Test, which starts on Friday.

He displayed a classy array of strokes to reach 134 — equal to his highest score in Australia — as West Indies made 328 in reply to Victoria's first innings total of 385.

Logie began the day on 79, and sped through the 80s and 90s, thanks to some superb straight and cover drives. He reached his century after 197 minutes with a three off Hughes, who has been recalled to Australia's squad for Perth.

against Mike Gatting's side, he scored over 500 runs. In Pakistan this autumn his six Test innings provided him with an average of 8.80. At 27, he is too good and spirited a batsman not to make plenty more runs for Australia.

With 19 wickets at 17 apiece in New South Wales's first four matches this season, and leader last season of the Sheffield Shield bowling averages, Lawson is a popular choice.

The last of his 37 Test matches was against England two years ago, here in Perth. That Terry Alderman, now

aged 32, is another to be in line for a recall suggests that Australia are finding it no easier than England to unearth young men capable of matching the fire-power of the West Indians.

I am rather surprised, in fact, that Hughes has been preferred to Alderman. Bowling into the breeze at Perth is hard and specialized work, and Alderman has been doing it since he was a boy. He is, incidentally, one of several members of the two "rebel" Australian sides that went to South Africa now trying and eligible again, for a Test place.

Alderman and Kim Hughes, their defection pardoned, will be Western Australia's captain and vice-captain respectively against New South Wales at the weekend.

The task of umpiring Friday's Test match falls to Robin Bailhache, a veteran of 27 Tests, and Terry Prue, aged 39, a laboratory technician who will be standing in his first.

In Melbourne on Sunday, Bailhache had to tell the West Indians to pitch the ball up. Wayne Phillips, a diminutive right-hander unrelated to the South Australian batsman of the same name, was frustrating them with a century for Victoria.

WEST INDIES: First innings  
C G Greenidge c Hughes b Dodemaide 1  
R B Richardson c Dismore b Hughes 2  
KLT Arthurton c Jones b Dodemaide 3  
CA Hooper c Jackson b Dodemaide 54  
A L Logie c Hughes b Osbourne 134  
JLT Dagen c Whitmore b O'Donnell 10  
R A Harper not out 10  
Total 328

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-4, 3-4, 4-173, 5-152, 6-225, 7-234, 8-248, 9-301.  
BOWLING: Hughes 27-5-12-32-3; Dodemaide 29-9-55-3; Jackson 24-7-49-0; O'Donnell 21-2-52-2; Osbourne 16-1-35-2.

From Javed Akhtar, Bombay

take nothing for granted," Wright said.

New Zealand were unrecognizable as the side so comprehensively beaten in the first Test at Bangalore. Twice the tail-end batsman fought back and ninth-wicket stands in the two innings added valuable runs.

Hadlee destroyed the Indian first innings when they looked poised to take a big lead, and together with Bracewell produced a repeat performance when the home side made a second visit to the batting crease.

Bracewell had had a particularly rewarding match. He was top scorer in the first innings with 52 and followed it up with 32. He was the common factor

in both the ninth-wicket stands and his four wickets in the second innings were instrumental in taking New Zealand close to victory.

His only blemish has been his persistent appealing, something which caught the eye of the umpire Ramaswamy, who first had a word with Wright, who in turn spoke to the bowler.

Wright, in keeping with his policy, declared at the beginning of the series, of not discussing umpiring issues, would not be drawn on the matter saying only that "Bracewell is a bit aggressive."

SCORES: New Zealand 236 (J G Bracewell 52, R J Sheen 4 for 43 and 278 (A H Jones 78, I O S Senanayake 64, A Ayub 5 for 80, N Hiran 4 for 38; India 125 (J Hadlee 5 for 49 and 137 for 7 (J G Bracewell 4 for 36).

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## SNOOKER



Mountjoy's return: the new UK champion celebrates with his coach, Frank Callan

## Mountjoy finds his method

By Steve Acteson

Don't Mountjoy's mid-spent middle age bore fruit on Sunday in the shape of the Tennents United Kingdom championship and £28,000 prize money after defeating Stephen Hendry 16-12, while also depriving the Scot of the prize for the highest break.

There is little merry on the snooker table, and when Mountjoy, a former miner from South Wales, was beaten the first time out in the UK championships a year ago, he reached the season's midway point without a single ranking point, with his future looking extremely bleak as he fell out of the world's top 16 for the first time.

Fortunately, Terry Griffiths, his close friend, was able to direct Mountjoy towards the game's leading coach, Frank Callan, whose revival of an ailing career, now has Mountjoy about to begin climbing back up the rankings from his present 24th position.

"He was ready to pack it in when he came to me last February. His game had completely gone," Callan, a retired Blackpool fishmonger, said. "But what else could he do apart from playing snooker? He said that if I could give him something to work on then he would and he certainly did."

"He's as hard — or I should say good — about practising as Steve Davis or Terry Griffiths, he never stops working, but he's got something to work with now, he's got a method."

That method was once instilled into Davis, too, although Callan's involvement in helping that talent to blossom has tended to be underplayed by all concerned.

"Dave was absolutely in the pit and how could I turn him away? But the way he has come back and won a big tournament is absolutely fantastic. It is the most satisfying achievement of my career to have helped him do it," Callan said.

Callan said: "The only thing wrong with Stephen was that he let the pressure get to him. But he's eventually going to take over from Davis as No. 1 in the game, that's for sure."

RESULTS: D Mountjoy (Wales) in 2 hours 16-12, Frame scores: Hendry 65-75-25, 65-75-25, 25-113, 81-47, 87-0, 124-7, 82-65, 13-26, 14-39, 37-72, 78-0, 0-136, 78-48, 71-61, 122-0, 73-0, 71-21, 131-1, 106-0, 128-0, 18-24, 64-26, 5-73, 21-80, 43-56, 67-11.

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# Longriver Lady looks poised for encore

**By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)**

Longriver Lady, who looks to have a bright future over fences, appeals as today's best bet in the Tattersalls Mares Only Novices Chase Qualifier at Newton Abbot.

Last season Richard Holder's five-year-old won the final of a similar series over hurdles, storming home eight lengths clear of her rivals in the Hoechst Panacur EBF Novices' Handicap at Newbury.

When she tackled fences for the first time in public at Uttoxeter earlier this month, Longriver Lady was equally impressive, coming home seven lengths and 10 lengths ahead of the more experienced pair, Ickworth and Bishopdale.

Her jumping was exemplary and, having made virtually all the running over that 2½ miles, she seems unlikely to be worried by today's shorter distance and sharp track.

Indeed, if she jumps as well as she did at Uttoxeter, Longriver Lady should prove at Newton Abbot.

With Martin Pipe's stable continuing its formidable progress, no one will be surprised if the Claude Whitley Memorial Challenge Cup is won by Bonanza Boy, even on his seasonal debut.

The lack of a previous race does not seem to matter in this particular yard as both Beau Ranger and Strands Of Gold demonstrated so ably at a higher level last week.

Bonanza Boy faces a difficult task on his reappearance with 12 stone but should be capable of defying that burden if he can recapture the form which enabled him to win his first three races for Philip Hobbs last autumn.

Elsewhere, another successful member of the all-conquering Wellington stable, should also prove hard to beat in the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares Only Qualifier at Huntingdon following those recent victories at Market Rasen and Taunton.

Long Engagement, at his best, would have a clear chance in the Peterborough Chase but he has twice disappointed this season at Devon and Ascot.

In the circumstances, it may well pay to oppose him here with Twinkley Stone, who is not quite the force he was but still finished a commendable third in the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham last time.

No matter how he fares at Long Engagement, Richard Dunwoody has sound prospects on Ace Of Spies (2.30) and Iba Majed (3.0).

Iba Majed, who begins his steepchasing career in the Netherkelly Novices Chase, was far and away superior to those opponents over hurdles.

There should be little between Kadan and Skyest in the Nashon Building Handicap Hurdle, judged on the way that they ran at Wolverhampton at the beginning of this month when they finished second and third respectively behind Windbound Lass.

Kadan gets the vote as he might have won that day but for misjudging the last hurdle.

Jessica Charles-Jones, who broke her back in a fall at Southwell two months ago, is making good progress in Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, but has been advised against spending Christmas Day at home.



Ravinella, the winner of the English and French 1,000 Guineas this season, comes under the hammer at the Newmarket December Sales today. She is being offered following the death in September of her partner, Roland de Chambure, who with Alec Head raced her in the name of Ecurie Alard.

The daughter of Mr Prospector, out of the Northern Dancer mare Really Lucky, was trained in France by Crispin Head. She also numbered the 1987 Cheveley Park Stakes among her victories and last year earlier this month when seventh to Miesque in the Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs, Kentucky.

She is certain to create massive interest among the bloodstock market's leading players, and her sale poses the intriguing question whether her eventual purchaser will keep her in training or decide to breed from her immediately.

Ravinella is the leading light of a powerful 34-strong consignment from Société Alard being offered in two groups today and tomorrow. Besides Ravinella in today's draft, the 1987 Prix Robert Papin winner Balawaki, who precedes Ravinella in the ring, is another high quality lot.

## Irish act on problem of non-triers

**From Our Irish Racing Correspondent**

Under increasing pressure to do something about the problem of non-triers in Irish racing, Michael Dargan, the senior steward of the Turf Club, yesterday disclosed details of a group of a new standing committee, entitled the racing committee.

Lord Hemphill, the former holder of the senior steward's post, has been named to head the new five-man committee.

The new body will have extensive powers but first and foremost will regulate, control and adjudicate upon the conduct of racing, the rules of the race and riders and owners but also of all persons who attend race meetings.

The committee will be able to impose fines up to £1,000 and suspend any person for up to three months. If they believe that the breach of rules deserves a sullen penalty they will report the matter to the stewards of the Turf Club.

When the committee feels a horse has not been allowed to run on its merits, they will be able to instruct the Keeper of the Match Book to refuse to accept any entries or declarations for such a horse for a period of up to three months.

## Mecca mission for Sproston Boy

**By Phil McLennan**

Sproston Boy, who reserves his best form for Sandown Park's demanding circuit, will shoulder top weight of 11st 10lb in the £30,000 Mecca Bookmakers' Handicap Hurdle at the Easter course on Saturday.

With Celtic Shot missing the race in favour of the Bala Hurdle a week later, the weights rose 7lb at yesterday's confirmation-of-entry stage when 17 stood their ground.

Sproston Boy, Sandown and seems to run his best races there. Paul Kelleway, Sproston Boy's trainer, said yesterday: "We'd like it a bit softer, though."

Sproston Boy has gained two of his three wins over hurdles at Sandown including the William Hill Imperial Cup in March. He also ran a fine race when he eighth-length second to Celtic Shot in the Mecca Hurdle 12 months ago, conceding the subsequent Champion Hurdle winner 12lb.

Cashew King, third in last year's race, two lengths behind Sproston Boy, meets his rival on a 1lb better terms on Saturday. The County Hurdle winner was confirmed as a definite runner by Bryan McManus yesterday.

"He was a bit big on his first run of the season at Cheltenham and has come on a lot since then," the Tamworth trainer said. "The first we've had in the Midlands has held us up a little but he's not far short of his peak."

One trainer delighted at the rise in the weights was Andy Turrell whose Tobito is now able to meet Calapaz on 4lb better terms than when they met at Cheltenham last month.

Calapaz, the subsequent Gerry Feilden Hurdle runner-up, finished four lengths ahead of Tobito on that occasion but Turrell is putting up talented conditional rider Ian Lawrence who claims 7lb and can ride at 9st 7lb.

The sponsors make Intuition, runner-up to the well-backed Assault at Ascot 10 days ago, 4-1 favourite. Intuition's trainer, Reg Akhurst, will also saddle Nekis, a respectable second to Celtic Shot at Leicester last week.

Another trainer likely to be disappointed is John Edwards, who has left in Ebbelock Hurdle winner Cliffrida and Firm Price, recently bought out of Mary Revely's stable at the Doncaster sales.

## Course specialists

TRAINER	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEY	Runners	Per cent
F. Walsby	3	33.3	R. Mearns	3	22.9
J. Gifford	2	20.0	M. G. Griffiths	3	22.9
O. Sheehy	2	20.0	K. Mearns	4	22.9
P. Cundell	4	24.0	S. Knight	4	22.9

## Guide to our in-line racecard

1 12143 GOOD TIMES 13 (P,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hal 12-0	B West (7) 86
Receded number, six-figure form (P - fall, F - pulled up, U - unseated rider, B - brought down, S - slipped up, R - refused, D - disqualified, H - horse's name, days since last outing, F - flat, G - gallop, S - steeplechase, H - hurdle, C - course, W - winner, D - distance, W - winner, C - course and distance).	
1.45 CALADE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (E3,752: 3m 210yds) (8 runners)	
1 14323 BONANZA BOY 237 (P,F,G,S) (Dunmore) 8 M Pige 7-12-0	P. Soudmore 86
2 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86
3 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86
4 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86
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6 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86
7 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86
8 14323 BROADBENT 18 (P,F,G,S) (M. Mearns) 8 M Pige 7-11-0	P. Soudmore 86

## Yesterday's results

# Course specialists

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5 PATTY STALLING (S Mrs J Mulgrave) R Frost 11-0.

6 JUST MEASURE (Sir Gordon Brunton) D Ewbank 10-0.

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5 PATTY STALLING (S Mrs J Mulgrave) R Frost 11-0.

6 JUST MEASURE (Sir Gordon Brunton) D Ewbank 10-0.

7 1011 BRADY STAR 7-4 Sir Measure, 7-1 Sir Jules, 10-1 Eddie's Felix, 14-1 others.

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## FOOTBALL

**Dell** in their fourth round match. Southampton are unbeaten in nine matches. The Northern Ireland international forward, Colin Clarke, and the summer signing, Paul Ridgout, are again likely to start, although Ridgout may be named as one of the substitutes.

**Joe Jordan**, the manager of Bristol City, has injury problems before his side's tie with Tranmere Rovers, of the fourth division, at Ashton Gate.

The central defenders, John Pender and Glenn Humphries, and the full backs, Andy Dewdney and Chris Honor, are all doubtful. Gary Stanley, the former Everton and Chelsea player who is on a monthly contract, is certain to play.

Tranmere will be without their suspended winger, John Morrissey. The midfield player, Jim Harvey, who has a hamstring injury, and the goalkeeper, Eric Nixon, who is recovering after having 12 stitches in his leg injury, face late fitness tests.

Paul Collins, aged 20, who made his debut at Stockport on Friday, will again keep goal if Nixon is ruled out.

Support at Hillsborough was necessary to generate the funds needed in the transfer market today and undoubtedly the opportunities are greater at Leeds where even a hint of a winning team is worth attention over £200,000. The average cost this season is already the best in the division.

"Leeds is a city of a million people, with one club and obviously enormous potential," Wilkinson says. "Football may be theatre, entertainment, a passion. But as a club we are a football club. We have to have to be good enough to compete in the market and earn the profits."

A yardstick of how far Leeds have progressed in a short time comes in tonight's Simrod Cup final. The first time the president test of their potential for promotion comes in holiday fixtures with Blackburn Rovers at home and a visit to Manchester City.

"To go up this season would be a double miracle, if there is such a thing. Slides slip the table and you go up and you have to look at the number of points you are averaging per game and judge it by the figure achieved by the leaders," he says.

By that standard, Wilkinson may yet achieve what even the most diehard Leeds supporters accept as the impossible.

be familiar to supporters of the various clubs, Derby County, Chesterfield, Tranmere Rovers and Plymouth Argyle.

Derby's Muntari, who was beaten 2-0 by Inter in the UEFA Cup in midweek, recovered their touch in the West German game, scoring twice. He was in Nuremberg, thanks to a remarkable goal, scored with an overhead kick, by Wegmann. The win extended Bayern's unbeaten run to 16 matches and gave them a five-point lead at the top.

In France, Jesper Olsen, recently of Manchester United, netted twice for Auxerre. Bordeaux as they went down at home to the league leaders, Paris Saint-Germain. Auxerre, in second, were up to 11th, beating Lyon and opening a seven-point gap between themselves and the next club, Marseille. Mo Johnston scored for Nantes as they beat Caen.

[illegible]

Harry Brind, Surrey's ground controller, said: "We shall only use this pitch in minor matches but if this experiment works, it could be a wonderful asset. Worn footholds are always a

Notts Sport, the firm responsible for polypropylene, have already installed it to protect goalmouth areas at the practice grounds of several Football League clubs and also under the approach paths to Sennehege.



The Commonwealth champion, Steve Baddeley, and the Canadian champion, Steve Butler, were among those who pulled out. The Scots were taken out of the competition because they were unable to recover fitness to take part in the Carlton Vauxhall exhibition circuit.

England supplied half the singles finalists, but Nick Vatt was overwhelmed by Morten Frost, of Denmark, and Fiona Smith allowed Christine Magnusson of Sweden, to come from behind to win.

Gitte Paulsen, the Danish international, is still detained in an Edinburgh hospital after being hit in the eye by a shuttle. She withdrew from the women's and mixed finals, giving England's Gillian Clark and Sara Sankey a walkover win.

won a narrow victory at Castledore. Leigh are proving themselves far superior to all other clubs in the division and place such attractive open football that they are not incapable of a surprise.

Northern will have received an enormous boost from beating the first division leaders without conceding a goal, and the players Phil Ford and Brendan Hall.

In the remaining tie, Hull Kingston Rovers, who hope to have David Bishop fit again, entertain Wigan. Had the match

● Oldham, desperate to drive themselves off the face of the first division, are chasing local Fieldhouse, the £95,000 transfer-listed St Helens and former Great Britain forward.

Tony Barrow, the manager, keen to have Fieldhouse in his side, has already been arranged match at Halifax, and he would also like to sign the Castledore pair, David Rooker and Gary Hyde, with £10,000. In addition to the £40,000 offer he has already had rejected.

Carter has progressed to meet Beeson as a sixthump seed far more competent, willing and determined than eight of those listed above him.

Long criticized as the most awkward and obstructive of England's top players, this Hertfordshire champion has improved both his movement and

The women's medal tally, compared with the two golds, a silver and three bronzes won last year, was disappointing.

**RESULTS: Men (under 21):** Santamé (ARG), gold; D. Dufourin (GB), bronze; Featherweight: S Kolesnikov (USSR), gold; J. Tancock (GB), silver; Lightweight: J. Edwards (GB), bronze; Light middleweight: A Megomedov (USSR), gold; R. Williams (GB), silver; Heavyweight: J. [Sc], gold; Light-heavyweight: F. Bortolotti (ITA), gold; Heavyweight: D. [Sc], gold.

**Women (under 18):** Santamé (ARG); 6 Szaruchowski (POL), gold; Featherweight: J. [Sc], gold; Lightweight: J. [Sc], silver; Light middleweight: M. Smolén (POL), gold; J. [Sc] (GB), bronze; Light middleweight: J. [Sc] (GB), bronze; Heavyweight: U. [Sc], gold.

**Women (under 21):** Santamé (ARG), gold; C. Chanock (GB), bronze; Light-heavyweight: U. [Sc], gold.

The Devils lifted the season's first tie, winning the second of the first division Autumn Trophy, in spite of a spirited attempt by Medway Bears to overcome the five-goal deficit they inherited from the first leg.

Thomond Park is not an arena to approach simply with hope in the heart, but rather with fire in the belly. So many things have happened in Munster rugby of late, and to their captain Donal Lenihan, that is no more than a foretaste of what is to come. It is not even so much as a year since he and his team were at Ravenhill last year when they achieved an honourable draw.

● Steve Smith, the Ballymena, and Ireland hooker whose name has been linked with Bath and London Irish recently, is remaining in Ballymena for the immediate future. Smith has accepted an appointment from a London sports outfitting company to be their Northern Ireland representative.

Paul Curran the double Commonwealth Games champion, and the country's leading amateur road racer, yesterday signed to compete as a professional next year (Peter Bryan writes).

He joins Percy Bilton, the team sponsored by the West London industrial building company, on a two-year contract as a replacement for John Herby, who is expected to become the team's manager.

Curran, of Stockton, said: "Usually for me, I haven't had any second thoughts about making the move. I'm sure it's the right one."

For the last four years he has won the Star trophy, awarded the most consistently-placed rider in nine selected events. Curran returned from a non-cycling holiday last week and will race his local race on Christmas Eve.

Christies Drv.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

### TENNIS

**ADELAIDE:** Southern Cross Classic women's tournament: First round: C Linde (S) defeated J Fieft (Aus), 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; T. Strydom (Aus) vs C Dahlmann (Swe), 6-1, 6-2; S. Liron (Zag) vs P. Jung (FRG), 6-1, 6-2; N. Prows (Aus) vs A. Seent (Aus), 6-4, 7-5; T. Tsoropoulou (Gr) vs L. Lutz (It), 6-3, 6-4; M. Cludman (Aus) vs L. Garrone (It), 7-6, 6-5; J. Hingray (Swe) vs M. Lindstrom (Swe), 6-1, 6-2; S. Liron (Zag) vs C. Zolotare (NZL), 6-2, 6-1.

**ENGLAND:** International tennis match: Ever in M. Nalravoska, 7-6, 7-5.

**TURKEY:** International women's doubles tournament: F. Kizil K. Adams & Z. Garmson (C. Fernandez & R. White) (US), 7-6, 7-4; ATP RAISING: M. Hinder (Swe) vs L. Landt (Cz), 3-6, 3-6; (US), 6-3, 6-2; S. E. S. Edberg (Swe) & M. Carlsson (Swe) vs J. Cornors (US) & J. Hissak (Swe).



# Television's matchmakers fail to score

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

The television public has been let down. Ever since ITV claimed the right to cover live League football at the extravagant price of £11 million a year, viewers were led to believe that the picture this season would be better, bigger and brighter. So far, the promise has not been fulfilled. The Match, supposedly fresh and innovative, is presented in the same tired, format as its predecessor. Big may have been deleted from the title but little of note has been inserted into the programme to justify the publicity that preceded the opening show a month ago.

The fish-eye lens at the foot of a stanchion offers an insight into no more than the texture

of the grass and the construction of the net. The camera looking across the edge of the penalty area, hardly a new idea, has yet to shed light on any significant incident.

Abbreviated interviews with players as they leave the pitch at half-time are inevitably uninformative as the truncated conversations with the man of the match. The interval is illuminated by the previous day's first division goals but they appear as briefly as targets on a fairground rifle range.

The presentation itself is equally basic. The audience is pushed immediately into the game at 3 p.m. and pulled as swiftly out of it two hours later. The package, instead of being loosely wrapped in colourful imagination, is squeezed

tightly into a brown paper bag. Unlike the BBC, which will benefit from the natural excitement and tension of FA Cup ties, ITV should at least attempt to dress up its product. League fixtures are not only comparatively meaningless. They can also be dull, such as the goalless yawn between Newcastle United and Manchester United on Sunday.

The BBC chose to challenge them directly for the first time. The BBC showed a snooker final at the same time. A spokesman will not be the only one to be "interested in the viewing figures" to discover how many followers of sport preferred to watch events from Preston rather than St James' Park.

ITV, hoping optimistically

for an audience of eight million, has initially attracted fewer than six million. If expectations are to be reached, The Match will have to be treated in a much more adventurous fashion. The coverage of football has for too long been as meagre as the facilities for spectators who do attend matches.

As the national game, football deserves no less than to be seen in a substantially more appealing light. Yet, unlike American sports, it was not seemingly designed for the small screen. There are no natural breaks in the action which is unfolding at an increasingly bewildering speed.

But there is a way in which

transmission by an hour, it would have time to linger over replays of key incidents and discuss their significance; it could technically be as dramatic a revelation as the American football shows on Monday nights in the United States.

The presentation there is enthralling. The preview includes visual evidence of the potential that lies ahead. Given the time, ITV could have preceded The Match on Sunday with a few spectacular valleys from Mark Hughes, for instance, although recent examples of a Newcastle goal would have been more difficult to locate.

The game itself could have been illustrated with slow-motion replays, with cameras isolating influential players,

with views from innumerable different angles and especially with explanations of decisive incidents. Through the use of "a chalkboard", moves in American football are analysed in graphic detail. Why not here?

With the assistance of a knowledgeable commentator, viewers could see for themselves how a forward, by drifting momentarily away from his marker for example, found the necessary room in which to score. Such enlightenment has never before been provided in England. Nor can it be if transmissions are genuinely live.

The pauses are inconveniently short. During the television game at Sheffield Wednesday, for instance, the

picture of delight and relief in Tottenham Hotspur's dugout as Paul Stewart struck could not be included for several minutes. By then the impact of the reaction to his goal had passed.

Some may feel cheated that the "live game" that they are watching is in effect an hour old. Yet if those responsible for The Match were allowed to take advantage of the possibilities, the programme could hardly fail to be much more compelling than it is now.

Having spent the money, all £44 million of it, it defies belief that ITV has not considered giving more time or more thought to the outcome. So far neither the company nor the game nor the public could be said to have had a fair deal.

END COLUMN

## Leading ladies refuse to submit

From Linda Pentz  
Los Angeles

Do not weep yet for the passing careers of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, so recently eclipsed by the ascended star of Steffi Graf and the rising one of Gabriela Sabatini. Their careers are not yet over; nor are they likely to be in the near future.

Still ranked second and third in the world respectively, Navratilova and Evert's playing careers constitute the longest running rivalry in women's tennis — their first encounter was in 1973. It is one that is not ready to die.

They have played a total of 80 times in tournament competitions, but on Sunday they met in one of their infrequent exhibition matches: a contest won by Evert on a slow, indoor carpet under dim lighting, 7-6, 7-5.

There is a combination which continues to charm both their supporters and themselves. And, in the years to come, when the two players' competitive clocks finally tick a little slower, it may be a spectacle more often on view.

Navratilova, aged 32, and Evert, a year older, will have played only six head-to-head exhibitions in the year by the time 1988 comes to a close. But Navratilova envisages a time when that number could be multiplied tenfold.

"Maybe one day we'll do one of those farewell tours like Bjorn Borg," Navratilova said. She was referring to the multi-city tour the five-times Wimbledon champion conducted across the United States when he retired at the age of 26.

### Unlikely to retire at the same time

Navratilova and Evert, complete with strobe lights and dry ice? "It would be nice to play one last time and just enjoy it," Navratilova said. "It wouldn't be for money. It would just be to show people 'this is what you're going to miss' — that could be fun."

The travelling Chris-Martina roadshow may never materialize, however, since Evert anticipates retiring before her rival is ready to quit the game.

"We probably won't retire at the same time since Martina has told me she'll play three to five more years," Evert said. "I think at most it's one or two more years for me. Plus I'd have to be in shape even for exhibitions. I don't want her to beat me 6-2, 6-1; and once I retire I don't want to have to work every day in practice, either."

Consequently, the two will likely combine a few exhibitions with regular competition prior to Evert's retirement. And with the pair lurking just behind Graf in the rankings, the likelihood of such confrontations remains as strong as ever. And as competitive.

"When I play Martina, anywhere — if I would play her in a park — there is still the competitive fire," Evert said. "You have to be alert and aggressive every point or she'll get on top of you."

### Graf and Sabatini there as targets

Neither player believes they have been permanently usurped by the Graf-Sabatini rivalry. Evert, for one, sees Navratilova and herself back in the No. 1 and 2 slots, in either order.

"I don't think it's impossible," Evert said. "On a fast court, Martina can beat Steffi. We'll be fighting Steffi and Gaby; and Gaby's right up there with us."

Navratilova agrees. "I think anything's possible," she said. "I know I have the game to beat Steffi. My problem is getting to play her. The way the circuit works, I don't have a chance to play her."

Although the Grand Dames are not yet ready to hand over power to the upstarts, they concede that the Graf-Sabatini rivalry is a potentially appealing replacement.

"If Martina and I retire, Evert said, tellingly avoiding the "when" word, "I'd like to think that we had put something into tennis; and that it would miss us just a bit."

## Wimbledon take steps towards a better reputation

A Football Association committee yesterday praised Wimbledon for what it described as the "marked improvement" in the club's disciplinary record during a three-month period of probation this season.

Wimbledon, the FA Cup holders, were fined £5,000 in August and put on probation following their seventh successive annual appearance before the FA. They were represented at Lancaster Gate yesterday by Stanley Reed, their chairman, and Bobby Gould, their manager.

An FA spokesman said that the committee, comprising the chairman, Geoff Thompson (Sheffield FA), the vice-chair-

man, Jack Hayward (Essex FA), and the FA vice-president, Ernest Brown, had decided that no further action was necessary. "The committee noted the marked improvement in field offences during the first three months of the season — in fact, Wimbledon have the eighth-best record to date in the League."

"At this stage last season Wimbledon had accumulated a total of 92 points, representing 40 bookings, yet at the comparative stage this season they have 40 points, a total of nine bookings." But the spokesman added: "The situation will continue to be closely monitored during the remain-

ing months of the season."

The committee's decision to take no further action comes despite recent incidents involving Wimbledon. In August, Jones, the midfielder, was sent off during a pre-season match. Earlier this month the same player attracted criticism for a tackle at which Stevens, of Tottenham Hotspur, was injured.

Wimbledon are also awaiting the outcome of a charge against their forward, Fashanu, of bringing the game into disrepute.

This was brought by the FA this month following an incident involving the Manchester United full back, Anderson, who has also been charged.

After the hearing yesterday, Gould said he had started his campaign to improve discipline after his side's draw at Chelsea in November 1987, in which two Wimbledon players, Carlton Fairweather and Brian Gayle, were sent off, and four others were booked.

Gould said: "The committee was very happy with the progress we have made. Since the Chelsea game I have imposed a fine system for players booked or sent off."

Gould added: "The committee congratulated me on what I have achieved so far but it's got to be perfect and there is still plenty of room for improvement."

Gould also took the opportunity to say that he hoped shortly to sign the Polish international midfielder, Detze Krzysinski, from the West German club, Homburg 08.

Gould said: "He has been training with us for a month now. He is an aggressive and competitive player and we have been very impressed with him."

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## Error by Fulton profits Conway

By John Hennessy

Joanne Conway was a class ahead of the 10 challengers for her British ice figure skating championship at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, yesterday. She was placed first in the compulsory by a comfortable margin by all seven judges.

There was, however, a big surprise among the lower placings. For Gina Fulton, second last year in both the figures and overall, was placed only fifth, and that after pulling up two places with her loops.

With the lower value of the figures, Conway now has a lead of 0.4 points over Louise Wooster (Richmond), 0.8 over Jackie Soames (Queens) and 1.2 over Tracy O'Connor (Sunderland). Fulton is 1.6 behind.

Conway, who was attended by a doctor on Sunday because of a virus she picked up in the United States, was full of beans yesterday. In spite of problems with the ice, because of oil in the system which left a "pebbledash" finish, she executed fine counters and her loops were only marred by her catching an edge on repeating her tracing on the uncertain ice.

Fulton, too, has her problems and is striving to shake off the after effects of glandular fever. Even so, she was unhinged more yesterday by an attack of nerves. How else to explain that she was so precise in warm-ups and so tense in competition? "I just froze," she said. Wooster skated well, with never a mark below 3.0.

The significance of Fulton's climb from seventh to fifth place is that it put her among the last group to skate in today's original programme.

She goes last but one and may therefore be able to make a tactical decision about the degree of severity of her combination jump.

Christian Newberry, of Solihull, made first strike for the men's championship left vacant by the defection of Paul

## Warren is left out of pocket by McGuigan venue change

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

A Barry McGuigan contest should be a promoter's dream, but the former world champion's final warm-up on Thursday for his world title bout in February has turned into a nightmare for Frank Warren.

Because of objections by the local authority, Warren has had to move the bout against Julio Miranda, of Argentina from Mudechute Farm, Isle of Dogs, to Pickett's Lock and that Warren said yesterday would leave him with a loss of £120,000.

"I am looking at my biggest-ever loss. I did not want to postpone it because I am locked into contracts and it could affect the world title fight we have lined up for Barry on February 18. I will have to treat the loss as an investment."

"We'll think of something," Warren said. "Those who do not want to go to Pickett's Lock will have their money refunded. If everybody turns up at the new venue some will have to watch the bout on a screen for £10 in an adjoining hall that holds 1,800 people."

In the middle of all this, Miranda arrived on Sunday after an 18-hour journey from Buenos Aires via New York. But his manager, Tito Lectorre, who once managed Carlos Monzon, is confident

that the journey, Miranda's first outside Argentina, will not affect his performance.

Lectorre admitted that his man was not a heavy puncher but warned his was a good boxer who had won 29 of his 34 contests and is Argentina's super-featherweight champion.

"McGuigan is a good fighter and a good puncher and the best Miranda has ever faced," Lectorre said.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Popplewell was told that Warren and the Mudechute Farm Association had decided not to proceed with the application for judicial review of Tower Hamlets Council's refusal to grant a licence.

Photograph and more boxing, page 44

SPORT IN BRIEF

Training for charity

Graham Gooch, Duncan Goodhew, Andy Ripley, Judy Simpson and Eugene Gilkes, are to take part in a series of celebrity workshops next month at the Barbican fitness centre, in London, to raise £10,000 for the Sports Aid Foundation.

Tasman rescue

Mike Quiller and his crew of New Zealanders were rescued last night, five days after their disabled trimaran, Steingaler, lost a large section from one of its floats mid-way across the Tasman sea.

Hayles hailed

Michael Hayles, of Bracknell, is ready to win his first cap for the England basketball team in the European championship match against The Netherlands at the G-Mex centre, Manchester tomorrow.

German team

Hanover — Boris Becker, Eric Jelen, Carl-Uwe Steeb and Patrick Kuchner have been chosen to play West Germany against Sweden in the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg (December 16-18).

New chairman

Paul Weaver, aged 40, a Coventry professional, is to be the new chairman of the Professional Golfers' Association. Weaver takes over from Derek Nash next March.



Cold comfort: Gina Fulton keeps her gloves on during yesterday's practice in Birmingham

The significance of Fulton's climb from seventh to fifth place is that it put her among the last group to skate in today's original programme.

She goes last but one and may therefore be able to make a tactical decision about the degree of severity of her combination jump.

Christian Newberry, of Solihull, made first strike for the men's championship left vacant by the defection of Paul

Warren is left out of pocket by McGuigan venue change

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

A Barry McGuigan contest should be a promoter's dream, but the former world champion's final warm-up on Thursday for his world title bout in February has turned into a nightmare for Frank Warren.

Because of objections by the local authority, Warren has had to move the bout against Julio Miranda, of Argentina from Mudechute Farm, Isle of Dogs, to Pickett's Lock and that Warren said yesterday would leave him with a loss of £120,000.

"I am looking at my biggest-ever loss. I did not want to postpone it because I am locked into contracts and it could affect the world title fight we have lined up for Barry on February 18. I will have to treat the loss as an investment."

"We'll think of something," Warren said. "Those who do not want to go to Pickett's Lock will have their money refunded. If everybody turns up at the new venue some will have to watch the bout on a screen for £10 in an adjoining hall that holds 1,800 people."

In the middle of all this, Miranda arrived on Sunday after an 18-hour journey from Buenos Aires via New York. But his manager, Tito Lectorre, who once managed Carlos Monzon, is confident

that the journey, Miranda's first outside Argentina, will not affect his performance.

Lectorre admitted that his man was not a heavy puncher but warned his was a good boxer who had won 29 of his 34 contests and is Argentina's super-featherweight champion.

"McGuigan is a good fighter and a good puncher and the best Miranda has ever faced," Lectorre said.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Popplewell was told that Warren and the Mudechute Farm Association had decided not to proceed with the application for judicial review of Tower Hamlets Council's refusal to grant a licence.

Photograph and more boxing, page 44

SPORT IN BRIEF

Training for charity

Graham Gooch, Duncan Goodhew, Andy Ripley, Judy Simpson and Eugene Gilkes, are to take part in a series of celebrity workshops next month at the Barbican fitness centre, in London, to raise £10,000 for the Sports Aid Foundation.

Tasman rescue

Mike Quiller and his crew of New Zealanders were rescued last night, five days after their disabled trimaran, Steingaler, lost a large section from one of its floats mid-way across the Tasman sea.

Hayles hailed

Michael Hayles, of Bracknell, is ready to win his first cap for the England basketball team in the European championship match against The Netherlands at the G-Mex centre, Manchester tomorrow.

German team

Hanover — Boris Becker, Eric Jelen, Carl-Uwe Steeb and Patrick Kuchner have been chosen to play West Germany against Sweden in the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg (December 16-18).

New chairman

Paul Weaver, aged 40, a Coventry professional, is to be the new chairman of the Professional Golfers' Association. Weaver takes over from Derek Nash next March.

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